



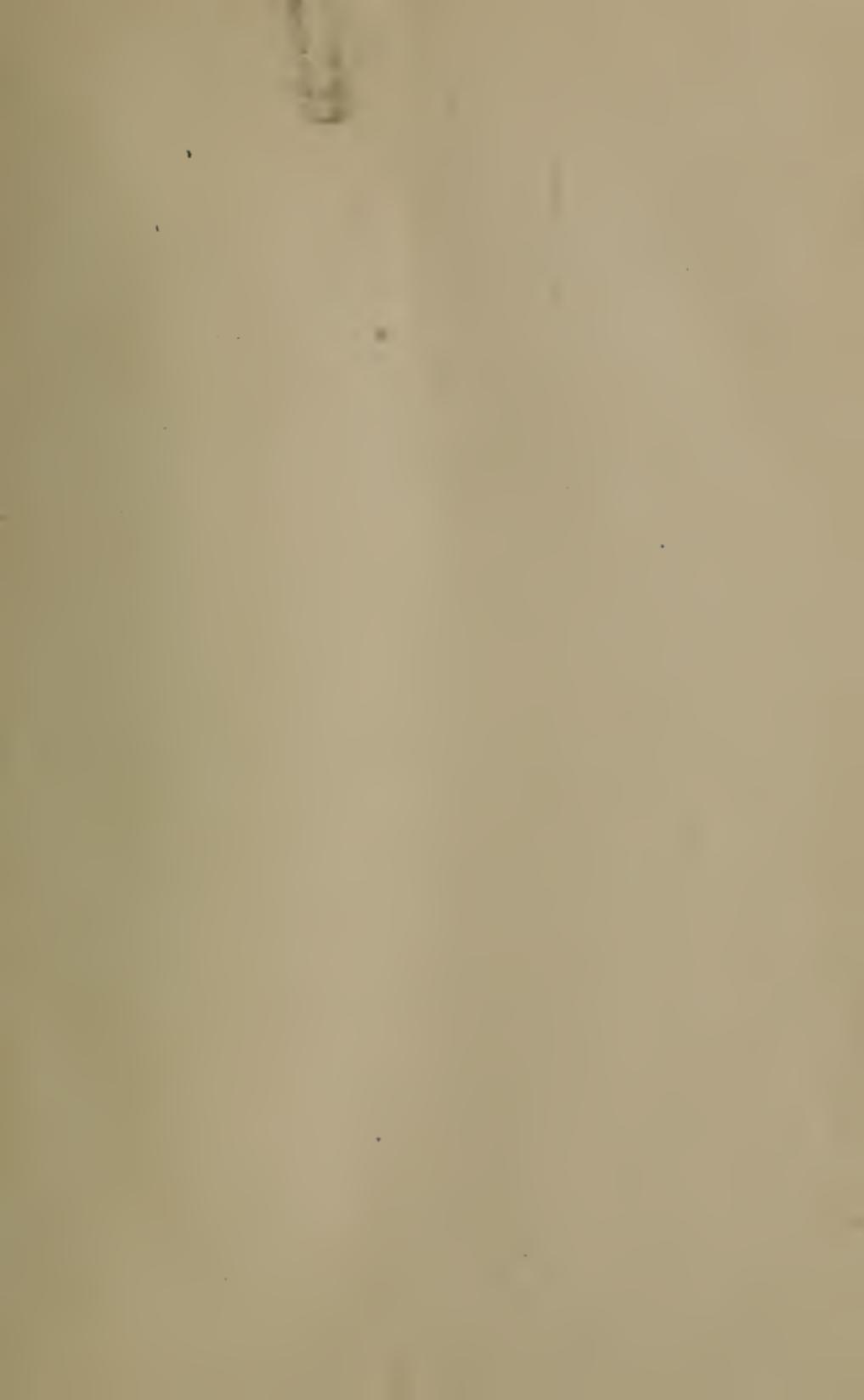
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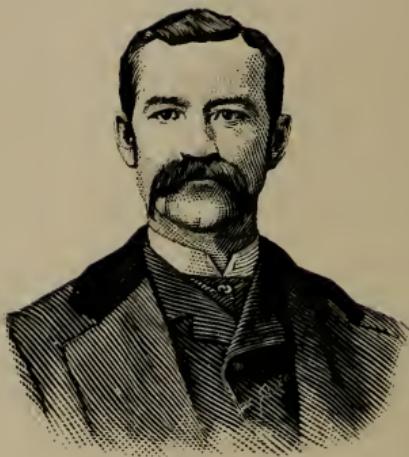


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Family  
Biographies  
OF THE FAMILIES OF  
Alexander, Wilkinson, Sparr and  
Guthrie,  
WITH SKETCHES AND  
MEMORIALS  
—ON—  
The Life and Character  
—OF—  
JOHN ALEXANDER,  
BY HIS SON,  
WM. G. ALEXANDER.

FIRST EDITION.

CRIPPLE CREEK:  
THE XL JOB PRINTING OFFICE.  
1892.



*yours truly*  
*W. G. Alexander*

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## PREFACE.

THIS little book is written in memory of my father, JOHN ALEXANDER. Six hundred copies will be published and distributed amongst his nearest relatives and friends. It is the desire of the author, in this way, to be helpful to some one; as the chief value of biography is to make the reader stronger, wiser, better and happier. It was my plan at first to write only the biography of my father, but becoming more interested in the work it was decided to extend it to his entire relationship, concluding with sketches of his own life and character. So, with this undertaking before me and in my mind and heart, I began the search for the forefathers of my father and mother. Going back nearly a century and a half we begin with the first planting of these ancestors in American soil. It has been a task mingled with much pleasure to explore the country over in search of their entire relationship for four generations back; but the greatest interest has been experienced in writing the second part of the book, which is devoted particularly to the life of a father. Actuated, then, chiefly by two motives embodied herein; believing that more happiness and usefulness come out of life by cultivating a broader acquaintance and a closer relationship with each other—espe-

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cially those allied by blood and by marriage—as designed by God himself, this little book was written. But a little while ago I visited the graves of four great grandparents, four grandparents, a father and a brother, as well as the silent tombs and last resting places of many other relatives, some of whom were laid away many years ago. During this recent trip it was likewise my pleasure to visit many of the old homesteads of ancestors. If anyone doubts the interest, the generosity and the welcome extended to one on such an occasion let him step aside from the busy, every-day cares, and, in this day of rapid transit, sojourn for a few hours with the people whose grandfathers and mothers and great grandparents are also his own. It is a meeting of strange faces that needs no introduction; it is a visit filled with the deepest interest and joy. It is therefore hoped that this record may direct those who read it in finding and learning something of each other, and in enjoying a more universal brotherhood, as the chief end of man in the world.

Moreover, it is the desire of the author that from the second part of this little volume the readers may be inspired to higher aims and nobler lives. It is the story of the one short life, briefly recorded, full of examples of self-sacrifice and perseverance, full of beautiful lessons of faithful, earnest Christian character—a character which for purity and truthfulness stands unimpeached. He believed "the chief end of man in this world is to do good to others, honor God and do His will." Under the direction of the Supreme Ruler there was no task too hard for him to perform. In his tireless zeal he longed for his Master's work. In his sacred devotion he yearned for a glimpse into his eternal home. Not long before his last hours he wrote with his own

hand: "Dear Master—

Not for ease nor worldly pleasure,  
Nor for fame my prayers shall be;  
Gladly will I toil and suffer,  
Only let me walk with Thee."

Many of those who knew him best and were nearest to him have contributed beautiful tributes to his life and memory.

It is the wish of the author that those receiving a copy of this book shall preserve it as a reference, and at their death let it go, for the same purpose, to the oldest of each family. To know that the sketches herein written shall lead some of us to purer thoughts, to nobler actions and better lives; to know that God alone has directed my hand in these feeble efforts, in compiling such thoughts and extracts as have chimed in with the testimony of an earnest and aspiring mind; that these shall be a counsel to those who are indifferent to life's real purpose and end; stimulate and comfort those who have long traveled in life's weary pathway, is the earnest and sincere desire of the author.

Wm. G. ALEXANDER,

April, 1892.

Cripple Creek, Colorado.

## TO THE READER.

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TO go back through four generations and undertake to look up the remaining scattered records of the lives of those who lived more than a century ago, then follow them down through all their branches as they increase in number and name, multiplying, diversifying and scattering their descendants to the very extremities of a great continent, is taking up a greater task than is at first dreamed of. He who attempts it meets with difficulties unlike those of any other kind of book-writing. In collecting the facts for these family biographies, embracing some four generations, it has been found necessary not only to rely much upon the willingness and recollections of others for the desired information, but likewise to depend largely upon them for its correctness. To this end a great many letters have been written to a great many different persons at a great many different places. Many responded; some did not. Some were prompt; some were not. It therefore requires time and patience to complete such a work, though in volume it be small. Great precaution has been taken to avoid mistakes in the publication of names, dates, places etc. The biographies herein written have been carefully gleaned from the mouths of living representatives of the different families, and so far as possible, names, dates of birth, marriages and deaths have been taken from the old family bibles by

the writer himself. Yet perfection is not claimed. Mistakes no doubt there are. We regret that many names and dates have been omitted. We have endeavored to make all records complete, but have failed to hear from some entirely; hence these omissions. In these family biographies the author has attempted to embrace—so far as they can be found—all of the descendants of JAMES W. ALEXANDER, ASHÆL WILKINSON, JOHN SPARR and WILLIAM GUTHRIE, dating from their advent into America down to the present time. Of some of the older ones brief sketches are written, but of the majority, merely the name, date and place of birth, marriage and burial, the religion, occupation and whereabouts are given. Names, dates, places, etc., about which there is doubt as to their correctness, are either so stated or omitted entirely. It is hoped that what has been written will enable and inspire someone at some later day to write a fuller and better biography of any or all of our relations. The method adopted in compiling the record of these various families is as follows, to-wit: Beginning with the oldest, the names of each one of every family are written in order of their births. That is, the oldest of a family is taken up and followed down through all of his descendants, then the next is taken up in the same manner and so on with each successive family to the last. To study the book understandingly it should be read from the beginning, and in the order in which it is written.

IN CONCLUSION:—The many who so kindly assisted me in gathering the material for this little volume have my most sincere thanks. Our work is done, though not so well done as we would like. Criticism is expected, yet, when it is remembered that it is the author's first attempt at book writing, and that this effort is made with the sole object of doing some good, no doubt but

a spirit of forbearance will prevail in passing upon the many imperfections of a well-meant effort. Regretting, therefore, that the book is no better than it is, but trusting and believing that it will receive your kindest consideration, find favor in your hands and be interesting and helpful to many, with kindest regards I leave it with you.

W. G. A.

# BIOGRAPHY.

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## ALEXANDER FAMILY.

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### JAMES AND MARGERY.

JAMES (Walter) and MARGERY (Oliver) ALEXANDER, my great grandparents, were natives of Ireland, where they were married at the ages of 21 and 16 years, two weeks after which they started for America. After a long and tedious voyage and much sea sickness and shipwreck they landed in America in October, 1784. They first settled in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. But little is known of their lives until the year 1817, when they moved to Champaign county, Ohio, then known as the "Far West." Here they died; James in 1819 and Margery in 1823, at the ages of 56 and 54 years. They left a family of twelve children, namely: Betsy, (Elizabeth) John, Robert, Nancy, Mattie, (Martha) Sallie, (Sarah) Peggy, (Margaret) Rachel, James, Jr. and Margery, (twins) Edward and Peter.

James Alexander, Sr., was a weaver by trade and supported his large family by the loom. He belonged to the old-line Whig Party, and both he and his wife were members of the old Presbyterian church. Always poor in the things of this world, they left no legacy to their children but honest, upright and Christian exam-

ple. My aunt, Rachel Sparr, says: "I've often heard my mother say of my grandparents, James and Margery Alexander, 'they were both close observers of the Sabbath, were upright in their lives and strictly religious. They both died triumphant and happy.'" They were buried in the old Wilkinson cemetery, about four miles south of Quincy, Ohio. Of their twelve children none are now living.

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1ST.—BETSY ALEXANDER.

Betsy, the oldest, was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, February 11th, 1788. She married George McPherrin in Pennsylvania, January 4, 1810. He was born in Virginia, September 3rd, 1777. In the fall of 1812 they moved to Champaign county, Ohio, and again in the year 1836 to Knox county, Illinois. Prior to this date and while in Ohio, they both belonged to the Presbyterian church, but after moving to Knox county they joined the Methodist church and remained in that church until their death. All their children were baptized in Ohio, in the Presbyterian church. George died August 26, 1852, at the age of 75. Betsy died February 21, 1867, aged 79 years and 10 days. They are both buried in Knox county. They had born to them eleven children, namely: Samuel, John, Nancy, Rosanah, Margery, Elizabeth, James, George, Alexander, Sarah Jane and Robert W., all of whom were born in Champaign county, Ohio, except Samuel.

1.—SAMUEL MCPHERRIN

was born in Pennsylvania, February 15, 1811. He married Eliza Wilson. They had four children. Two died young, and JOHN and WILLIAM are living at Tacoma, Washington. Samuel died in 1851, and is buried at Knoxville, Ill.

2.—JOHN MCPHERRIN

was born in Champaign county, Ohio, October 3, 1813. He was first married to Lucinda Kery, November 29,

1838. They raised three children, namely: Isaac, William and Elizabeth. He married his second wife, Eliza Swartz, December 30, 1852, and they raised two children, namely: Samuel C. and Sarah Ann. His oldest child, ISAAC, was born February 4, 1840; married Melinda Bradley, February 3, 1860. They have eight children, all living, namely: Ellen M., William G., Henrietta, Addie, John, Ward B., Bessie and Isaac R. They are farmers and live in eastern Iowa.

WILLIAM, the second child, was born July 3, 1845; married Frances Harris, February 3, 1870. They have four children, namely: Arthur D., Leroy, Paul and Nellie. William was a lawyer. He died January 9, 1884.

ELIZABETH, the third child, was born September 18, 1847. She married George Harris October 13, 1869. They also have four children, namely: Eve, Walter, Alice and John. They are farmers.

SAMUEL C., the fourth child, (first by second wife) born November 6, 1853; married Jessie Moore July 26, 1879. They have four children, namely, Hugh W., Howard C., Ruth and William L. Samuel C. is a lawyer and is practicing in Kansas City, Mo.

SARAH ANN, fifth child, (second by second wife) was born April 12, 1863; married Frank Frazier September 16, 1885. They have no children. They are engaged in the lumber business in the state of Washington.

This is the fullest record I have been able to obtain of John McPherrin. His children and grandchildren reside principally near Clarinda, Iowa, and a large number of them are members of the Methodist church, of which the old gentleman, now over 80 has been a member for over 40 years. He is a retired farmer, and still lives at Clarinda, Iowa. He is quite active, both mentally and physically, for a man of his age.

### 3.—NANCY MCPHERRIN

was born March 7, 1815; married Francis Wilson. They had three children. The oldest died young; the other

two, Thomas and Eliza, are living at Knoxville, Illinois, where the mother died and is buried.

4.—ROSANAH MCPHERRIN

was born December 22, 1816. She married George Wilson. They had eight children, four of whom died young. The four living are Frank, at Hampton, Neb., Cornelius, Jennie and Hattie, at Knoxville, Ill., where the mother died and is buried. Both Nancy and Rosanah were Methodists.

5. MARGERY MCPHERRIN

was born March 4, 1819. She married William McGowen. They had twelve children, four of whom died young; eight are still living. The husband died in 1871, and is buried at Knoxville, Ill. FRANK, a married son, lives at Knoxville also. BELLE, an unmarried daughter, lives with her mother at Knoxville. The mother is quite feeble and is blind. She is a Presbyterian. The other six children (whose names I have been unable to get,) reside near the same place.

6.—ELIZABETH MCPHERRIN.

was born Dec. 25, 1820. She married Francis Wilson, (who first married Nancy.) They had five children, three boys and two girls. The girls are both dead, and the boys are married and living in the vicinity of Knoxville, where the mother died and is buried. She was a Methodist. The father still lives with one of his sons.

7.—JAMES MCPHERRIN

was born July 17, 1823. He married Casendanah Dredge. To them were born eight children, five of whom are still living, and all married.

SARAH E., the oldest was born Dec. 28, 1849. Died young.

AMANDA C. was born Jan. 30, 1851. Died young.

CLARA E. was born June 1, 1852. She is married and lives at Clarinda, Iowa. She has nine children living and one dead. She is a Methodist.

Derinda B. was born Aug. 12, 1854. She is married

and lives at Colby, Kan. She has six children living and one dead.

MARY E. was born April 15, 1857. Died young.

JOHN F. was born Oct. 30, 1859. He is married and has six children. Is in the coal business at Knoxville.

WILLIAM C. was born July 19, 1864. He is married and has one child. Is also in the coal business at Knoxville, Ill.

JAMES E. JR., was born Sept. 19, 1869. He is married and has one child. He lives at Watoga, Ill.

8. GEORGE MCPHERRIN

was born Dec. 12, 1826. He married Eliza H. Cheny, Feb. 16, 1854. They raised four children, all of whom are living, namely:

CHARLES F., born Nov. 4, 1856. He married Jennie Hawk, Dec. 20, 1876. They have had two children, Elmine O., (dead) and Addie M., (living). He is a mail carrier, and lives at Clarinda, Iowa.

JAMES ALEXANDER was born Dec. 19, 1858. He is unmarried; lives at Clarinda, and is in the stock business.

ALICE A. was born Aug. 7, 1860. She married M. B. Sholtz, March 22, 1882. They have two children, namely: Jessie and Joseph.

JOHN W. was born April 5, 1864. He married Fannie Hix Dec. 18, 1889. They have one child, namely: Robert C. They are farmers.

This completes the record of the family of George McPherrin. He is a farmer, belongs to the Methodist church, and resides at Clarinda, Iowa, where he has lived for many years.

9. ALEXANDER MCPHERRIN

was born Sept. 30, 1828. He married Ellen Curl. They raised three children, two boys and one girl. All are living and married. LEWIS, the oldest, lives at Knoxville, Ill. Alexander was a methodist. He died in 1866, and is buried in Knox county, Ill.

## 10.—SARAH JANE MCPHERRIN

was born July 30, 1831. She married Joseph Elwell. They had two children, both of whom died young. Sarah Jane was also a Methodist. She died and is buried in Knox county.

## 11.—ROBERT W. MCPHERRIN

was born March 25, 1835. He has never been married. He is a farmer and trader and lives near Kansas City, Mo., where he owns a large amount of property.

This record of the family of Elizabeth McPherrin, nee Alexander, it will be noticed is not full, but is all that has been obtained.

## 2ND.—JOHN ALEXANDER.

John was born March 14, 1790. He was a carpenter by occupation, and married first Jane Reed Dec. 25, 1820, at Blairsville, Indiana county, Pa., by whom he had five children, namely: James, Samuel R., Elizabeth, Sallie and Margery. His first wife died March 27, 1827. On Nov. 26, 1827 he married his second wife, Hannah McCracken, by whom he had fifteen children, several of whom died in early infancy. The names of those given are: Jane, Margaret, John Jr., Hannah, Joseph, Joshua, Mary, Nancy, and Teresa. His first wife was born Oct. 17, 1802. She is buried at Lutheran Chapel, Indiana county, Pa. His second wife was born Oct. 5, 1807; died March 18, 1885. She is buried at the same place. Both wives were protestants.

Joseph D. Alexander, a grandson, who has so ably compiled this record, says: "My grandfather, John Alexander, was of Protestant faith, but never belonged to any church. In practical religion he was second to none. He was a man of very temperate habits, was never known to utter a profane word, and would have starved rather than taken a penny not honestly his own. He never had a law suit nor a quarrel and died as he had lived, respected by all who knew him as an honest

and upright man and without an enemy in the world. He died suddenly of a paralytic stroke while sitting at dinner, March 28, 1876, and is buried with his wives."

1. JAMES ALEXANDER

was born Sept. 12, 1821; carpenter by occupation. He married Lena Borne, May 4, 1848. At present they reside at 1309, Tenth Street, Altoona, Pa. To them have been born five children, namely: John, James, Jennie, Henry and Tillie.

JOHN, born Nov. 28, 1851; died April 19, 1859; buried at Blairsville.

JAMES, JR., born Aug. 10, 1855; died Oct. 13, 1883; buried at Altoona.

JENNIE, born February 4, 1858.

HENRY, born February 1, 1861.

TILLIE, born January 18, 1865.

The mother and all the children are devout Catholics. Jennie and Tillie are converts at Ebensburg, Pa. Henry is at Altoona.

2. SAMUEL R. ALEXANDER

was born March 1, 1823. He was a carpenter and undertaker; a Presbyterian; married Mary C. Devinny Dec. 23, '45. To them were born three children: Mattie, Joseph D. and Ella. The mother died of pneumonia, Dec. 23, 1884, and the father afterwards married Maria Repine and he died March 15, 1891. He and his first wife are buried at Lutheran Chapel, near Black Lick Station, Pa.

MATTIE was born in 1846; married Joseph R. Pierce. They have two children both living, Mertilla, aged 21, and Lena, aged 11. They are Protestants. The husband is a wagon maker by trade, but is at present the postmaster at Black Lick Station.

JOSEPH D. was born Aug. 14, 1849. He is a carpenter by trade. He married Hattie Dick, July 3, 1873. She was born April 21, 1855. They are Protestants and reside at Black Lick Station. They have eight children, all living, namely: Charles C., Carrie H., Ella,

Maggie, Florence, Samuel, John and George C. The oldest is 18, the youngest 2 years of age.

ELLA was born July 28, 1851. She married George Call, a soldier, who lost an arm in the battle at Jackson, Miss. He was born Feb. 22, 1842. They are Presbyterians. He is a painter by trade and resides at Freeport, Armstrong county, Pa. They have six children, all living, namely: John, Alice, Samuel and Joseph, (twins) Mary and George.

3.—ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

was born May 13, 1824. She married Joseph Brantner. He was a tailor by trade and by faith a Catholic. He died June 6, 1882. They had eleven children, namely: EVA, dead; ALBERT, married to Clara Litz; JOSEPH, married to Mary McCauley; LIZZIE, single; JOHN, dead; GEORGE, single; WILLIE, dead; FRANK, dead; THEODORE, dead; MARY, dead; CLARE, dead; The mother and all her living children reside at Pittsburg, Pa.

4.—SALLIE ALEXANDER

was born July 27, 1825. She is unmarried; is a Protestant, and resides with her half-sister, Nancy Fry, at Black Lick Station, Pa.

5.—MARGERY ALEXANDER

was born February 25, 1827; died March 27, 1827.

THE SECOND SET OF CHILDREN.

6.—JANE ALEXANDER

was born Sept. 29, 1828. She married George Scully Dec. 25, 1855. They raised three children, namely: Maggie, Mary and Nannie. They all reside at Black Lick Station. The husband died Jan. 9, 1865. She after married David Conrad March 28, 1871. She died Dec. 27, 1890, and is buried with her first husband at Black Lick Station. Her first husband was a stone cutter and the second is a shoe maker.

7.—MARGARET ALEXANDER

was born April 29, 1830. She married Hugh Fry April 12, 1859. He was born Feb. 18, 1827. They are Prot-

estants and he is by occupation a stone mason, but from injuries received from a falling scaffold, he has for years been unable to follow his trade. They reside with their two youngest and only living children at Black Lick Station. To them were born seven children, namely: JOHN, born March 2, 1860; died March 2, 1883. SUSIE, born Sept. 16, 1861; died Dec. 25, 1883. HANNAH M., born May 29, 1863; died in infancy. HUGH, JR. born July 17, 1864; died at about 9 years of age. JAMES J. born Dec. 23, 1867; died at about 7 years of age. JENNIE OLIVE, born Sept. 3, 1870; living. SAMUEL A., born April 30, 1874; living.

8.—JOHN ALEXANDER, JR.  
was born Nov. 28, 1831; died in infancy.

9.—HANNAH ALEXANDER  
was born Jan. 22, 1833. She is a Protestant by faith; never was married, and lives with her sister Teresa Allison at Homer City, Pa.

10.—JOSEPH ALEXANDER  
was born April 16, 1835; died Nov. 25, 1836.

11.—JOSHUA ALEXANDER  
was born Sept. 14, 1836; died Jan. 31, 1838.

12.—MARY ALEXANDER  
was born July 30, 1838; died March 13, 1839.

13.—NANCY ALEXANDER  
was born May 16, 1840. She married George Fry in 1874. To them was born one child, ROBERT A., born May 3, 1875. She is now a widow; is a Presbyterian, and is living with her maiden half sister Sallie on the old homestead at Black Lick Station.

14.—TERESA ALEXANDER  
was born June 5, 1842. (Her name is spelled "Terzah.") She married Robert Allison, a farmer, Aug. 7, 1866. He was born Aug. 3, 1845. They have one child, a daughter, SADIE, born Dec. 9, 1867. They reside near Homer City, Pa.

The others six children from John Alexander's sec-

ond wife died in infancy and were not named.

3d.—ROBERT ALEXANDER.

Robert Alexander, my grandfather, was born in Mifflin county, Pa., Feb. 16, 1793. He was raised on a farm in his native state, and while a young man moved with his parents to Champaign county, and a few years later to Logan county, Ohio. Feb. 26, 1822, he married Mary Wilkinson. Here we will stop the biography of Robert Alexander, until further on, when it will be taken up again at the beginning of his married life and completed.

4TH.—NANCY (AGNES,) ALEXANDER.

Nancy Alexander was born in the year 1795. In the old Wilkinson graveyard, four miles south of Quincy, Ohio, stands three dark brown slab stones. These tomb stones have stood there nearly 70 years. They mark the graves of father, mother and daughter. Inscribed upon them in distinct letters are the names James W. Alexander, Margery Alexander and Agnes Alexander. No dates or other inscriptions, save the names alone, are to be found there, and these lonely little slab stones are almost black with age. Nancy Alexander, (who is called Agnes on the tomb stone,) died at about the age of 19, and was never married. Agnes may have been her real name, instead of Nancy. As to this nothing definite can now be learned. Neither can the exact date of her death be ascertained. It was, however, probably a few years previous to the death of her father and mother, James and Margery, as given at the beginning of this biography.

5TH.—MATTIE (MARTHA,) ALEXANDER.

Mattie Alexander was born in Pennsylvania, about 1796 or 97. She married Joseph Alexander, (no relation,) about the year 1822. To them were born six

children, viz: James O., Sally, Robert N., Margery, Joseph and Nancy. The father was a farmer and a Baptist. The mother died a Methodist. They resided near Quincy, O., where their six children were born, and where they both died young. Joseph died in September, 1831, and Mattie Aug. 19, 1837. They are both buried in the Wilkinson graveyard, near Quincy, Ohio.

1.—JAMES O. ALEXANDER

was born Feb. 10, 1823. He married Mary Ann Kress Jan. 19, 1845. They raised five children, viz: Sarah Jane, Walter K., Robert N., Lizzie and James B. The father served as a union soldier through the late rebellion, was honorably discharged, and now draws a pension. He is a retired farmer and has resided in Kansas since 1876. He and his wife now live alone, on a farm eight miles from Wichita.

SARAH JANE, born June 21, 1846; married James S. Graham, a farmer, in October, 1866. She died in July, 1887, and left four boys and one girl.

WALTER K. was born April 28, 1849. He married Laura Underwood January, 1873. They have no children, and reside at Wichita, Kansas.

ROBERT N. was born Nov. 18, 1852. He married Sallie James in January, 1876. They have four boys and one girl, and reside at Wichita, Kansas.

LIZZIE was born Nov. 26, 1854. She married George S. Bussenbark, a farmer, in September, 1878. They have three girls.

JAMES B. was born July 26, 1862. He married Dilla Gillenwater Dec. 24, 1885. They have one girl and one boy, and reside at Wichita, Kansas, where he with his two brothers are retail merchants.

2.—SALLIE ALEXANDER

was born Sept. 14, 1824. She married Jacob Bailey, a merchant, in 1851 or 52. They have one son living, JAMES, at Urbanna, O. She died in the year 1856 or 57 and is buried at Texas, Champaign county, O.

## 3.—ROBERT N. ALEXANDER

was born May 18, 1826. He married Maggie Hendrix about the year 1856. Was in the mining business in California and Australia, and before his death was a retail merchant. He died March 1868, and is also buried at Texas, O. They have one daughter living. She married Charles McAdams, and they reside at Salina, Kansas.

## 4.—MARGERY ALEXANDER

was born Oct. 27, 1827. She married James Leslie, a shoemaker, about the year 1848. They have one daughter living. She married C. W. English, and they reside at Cimarron, Kansas. The father is dead and the mother lives with her daughter.

## 5.—JOSEPH ALEXANDER, JR.

was born Oct. 22, 1829; died in 1846 at the age of 17, and is buried in Wappell county, Iowa.

## 6.—NANCY ALEXANDER

was born Jan. 27, 1831. She married Clement W. Clay, a farmer, about the year 1850. They have a family and reside at Richland Centre, Ind. All the family of Mattie and Joseph Alexander are said to be of Methodist persuasion.

## 6TH.—SALLIE (SARAH,) ALEXANDER.

Sallie Alexander was born in Ohio about 1799. She married John Hanks, a miller, and they moved to northern Indiana. To them were born seven children. The mother died in early life. She was a Methodist, and is buried near Elkhart, Ind. She died about the year 1837 or 38. The father, John Hanks, died about the year 1848. The children of Sallie Hanks are as follows:

## 1.—THOMAS HANKS

was born October, 1827; married Mary Martin June 30, 1864. To them were born seven children, six of whom are living, viz: CHARLES, the oldest, 26 years of age;

lives at Paris, Ill. EMMA, died young. JOHN E. MARY E. WILLIAM A. IDA M. ANNA L.

The father served as a union soldier in the late rebellion; he is a carpenter by trade, and they reside at Degriffe, Ohio.

2.—JAMES HANKS

was born about 60 years ago; the only record we have of him is that he died and is buried in California.

3.—MARY HANKS

the third child, was never married. Her mother dying while she was quite young, left her among strangers, so she has learned so battle her own way through the world. She has followed dressmaking, and now resides at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

4.—OLIVER HANKS

was a union soldier in the late rebellion; is unmarried, a farmer, and lives in Dakota.

5.—JOHN HANKS

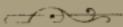
died young.

6.—SAMUEL HANKS

died young.

7.—Name Unknown.

The above record of the Hanks family is quite imperfect, but it is all that has been learned of them and their whereabouts.



7.—PEGGY (MARGARET,) ALEXANDER.

Peggy Alexander was born in 1802. She married Shepherd Patton at Quincy, O., where they had born to them nine children, viz: Mary, John, Margery, James, Elizabeth, Thomas, Sarah, Rachel and Martha. The parents were both Methodists. The mother died at Quincy, O., Oct. 20, 1839, aged 37 years, and is buried in the Wilkinson graveyard, leaving a large family of small children. The father was a carpenter. He remarried to Sarah Dowden, with whom he had three children. He also died at Quincy, Sept. 7, 1860, aged 64 years and 8 months, and is buried there.

## 1.—MARY PATTON,

the oldest, married Samuel Patton, (same name but no relation.) They left four children, viz: Margaret, Elizabeth, Charlotte and James. Mary and her husband were both Methodists. They lived and died and are buried at Quincy, O., she in November, 1888, and her husband preceding her 12 years.

MARGARET, their oldest, married Ezekiel Baughman. They live near Quincy, and have seven children, all living, viz: Elwood, (married a Miss Curl,) Charles, James, Belle, Susie, Bessie and Alonzo. The family are also Methodists.

ELIZABETH married G. W. Pool, a farmer. They also live at Quincy, and are Methodists. They have three children, viz: William, Samuel and Atwood.

JAMES, third child, married Mary Deck. He is a farmer, and they live at Lima, Ohio. They have three children, viz: Addie, Floyd and Nellie.

CHARLOTTE, fourth child, married Enos Styles, a farmer. They live at Quincy, and have six children, viz: Emma, Daisy, William, Otto and Otis, (twins,) and a baby. They are also Methodists.

## 2.—JOHN PATTON

was born March 30, 1826, at Quincy. He married Mary Livingston April 22, 1851. To them were born three children, viz: Louisa Ellen, Sarah E. and James L.

LOUISA ELLEN was born at Quincy, O., Oct 1, 1853. She married Felix H. Sidebottom, in Henry county, Ill., Feb. 15, 1872. They have five children, viz: Mary E., (dead) Charles W., Dora B., Lucy L., (dead) and Nellie E.

SARAH E., second child, was also born in Quincy, Jan. 22, 1855. She married William E. Battimon, in Guthrie county, Iowa, July 14, 1874. They have had eight children, viz: Francis M., Mary E., Edwin W., Lewis A. and Luther A., (twins) deceased, Roy, Clarence V. and Clara V., (twins) Clara V. dead.

JAMES L., third child, was born in Quincy, O., Sept. 15, 1857; died at the age of two years.

John Patton and his family are Methodists. He and his wife reside at Stuart, Adair county, Iowa, and are farmers. A letter recently received from him, relating some of his early recollections, will be copied further on.

3.—MARGERY PATTON

married Jackson Daniels at Quincy, O., where he died in early life. She has five children, viz: MIRIAM, married Jacob Couchman, a farmer; live at Rushville, Ind., and have a family; ALMIRA, also lives at Rushville; DORA, married and lives in the same place; ROBERT, married Belle Runyon. They live at Sidney, O., and have a family; is a painter. This is the fullest information we have of the family of Margery Daniels.

4.—JAMES PATTON

married Margaret Hornback, and they live at Riverside, Cal. He is a carpenter and they belong to the Methodist church. They have one child, NETTIE, married to John Sims, and they live in Colorado.

5. ELIZABETH PATTON

married Robert McConneighey, a cooper. They were also Methodists, and the family live at Wichita, Kan, but we have been unable to learn the number of children or their names. Elizabeth died Dec. 18, 1892, and is buried at Wichita.

6. THOMAS PATTON

married Susannah Baughman, and they have always lived at Quincy. He is a mechanic, and they are also Methodists. His wife died May 22, 1886, and is buried at Quincy. They have two children, viz: BELLE and WILLIAM, both married and living at the same place, the father making his home with them since his wife's death. Belle married George Allinger. They have two children, viz: Arthur and Eddie, William married Emma Curl. They have two children, Edwin and Nellie, (girls.)

## 7.—SARAH PATTON

married first John Hammond. He died, leaving her with three children, a boy named Daily and two girls. The widow re-married to David Curl. She is also a Methodist, and they live in Iowa.

## 8.—RACHEL PATTON

was born in Logan county, O., Oct. 11, 1837. She married Perry Bottles at Quincy, O., March 8, 1860. He was born in Warren county, O., March 19, 1835. He served as a union soldier in the late rebellion; belonged to company I. and B. of the 96th Ohio regiment; was twice captured and in prison, first at Alexandria, La., second time at Camp Ford, Texas. He was mustered into the service on the 19th of Aug. 1862, and mustered out on the 19th of May, 1865. He has served two terms as township trustee of Jefferson township, Wayne county, Ind. He is a cabinet maker by trade. They reside at Connersville, Ind. They have five children, all living at home, viz: Harrison, Mary, Ida, Elizabeth and Llewellyn.

HARRISON, born Dec. 23, 1861; is a carriage trimmer. He was married Dec. 24, 1891, to Cora Waltz, of Hagerstown, Ind., and they reside at Connersville.

MARY, born Nov. 29, 1863, in Quincy, Ohio. She is a dressmaker.

IDA, born Feb. 17, 1866; is a school teacher.

ELIZABETH, born Feb. 14, 1870; is a bright and intelligent book keeper.

LLEWELLYN, born Sept. 3, 1872, in Hagerstown, Ind. is a music teacher.

Their postoffice address is Mulberry St., Connersville, Ind.

## 9.—MARTHA PATTON

died in Illinois. She was never married.

This is the extent of our information of the Patton family.

## 8TH.—RACHEL ALEXANDER.

Rachel Alexander was born Aug. 28, 1803, in Pennsylvania. She married John McNay, in Ohio, in 1824. He was born Nov. 24, 1796. They moved to Elkhart, Ind., in 1831. They were farmers and belonged to the Methodist church. He died Nov. 11, 1843. She died Jan. 18, 1844. They are buried at Elkhart. They left a family of eight orphan children, alone in a strange land with no relations near. They all found good homes and grew up respectably and honorably. All are still living and have families of their own. Their names are: Jane, Robert, Cynthia A., John, Margery, Sarah, Peter A., and Francis A.

## 1.—JANE McNAY

was born in Ohio, Aug. 26, 1826. She married first Zenas Belden. They had three children, viz: HANNAH J., died at two years of age; JOSEPHINE, married John Colyar; have two children, viz: Lula and Belden; live near Elkhart; CHARLES Z., married Minerva Pindell. They have one child, Earl Zenas; are farmers and live near Elkhart. Jane Belden was left a widow; re-married to Horace Randolph. They have had no children, are both well advanced in age, and are living together near Elkhart.

## 2.—ROBERT McNAY

was born Jan. 27, 1830. He married Martha Ann Collins Oct. 15, 1853, at Michigan City, Ind. He enlisted in the 9th Ill. cavalry in 1861, and was honorably discharged in 1864. He is a tailor by trade, and lives at Valparaiso, Ind., where their home has been since 1857. To them were born six children, viz: Charles A., James A., John W., Mark R., Martha M. and Alice J.

CHARLES A. was born June 29, 1865; is an elevator engineer. He married Carrie Brockmyer Oct. 10, 1879, at Madison, Wis. No children. Their postoffice address is No. 7735 Atlanta St., Englewood, Ill.

JAMES A. was born Jan. 12, 1856; is a retail merchant. He married Rose Mosier April 17, 1879, at Hebron, Ind. They have four children, viz: Lula M., Lucy M., George R. and Hazel R. Their address is 32d East Marion St., Valparaiso, Ind.

JOHN W. was born Oct. 19, 1860; married Flora Benton June 10, 1886, at Englewood, Ill. They have had one child, Nina, who died at two years of age. He is a merchant tailor and resides at Valparaiso, Ind.

MARK R. was born Dec. 17, 1866; single; is a barber, and his postoffice address is 6318 63d St., Englewood, Ill.

MARTHA M. was born May 12, 1874; single, and resides with her parents at Valparaiso.

ALICE J. was born Jan. 19, 1877; single, and resides with her parents.

3.—CYNTHIA A. MCNAY

was born March 8, 1832; married John W. Oakes in 1853. They had three children, viz: Lena, Mary and Frankie. Her husband enlisted in the army in 1862, and in Nov., '63, was mortally wounded in the battle at Missionary Ridge, Tenn. He died in the same month, aged 33 years. They were farmers and members of the Methodist church. Their oldest child, LENA, was born Jan. 11, 1855; married James Lynn in April, 1875. They live on a farm 6½ miles east of Elkhart, Ind. The mother, now 60 years of age, has since her husband's death lived with this daughter. She has prepared the larger part of this biography of the McNay family, and proves to be a bright and intelligent correspondent. Lena and her husband have seven children, viz: Mary, John, Jennie, Robert, Charles, Nellie and Carrie, their ages ranging from 16 to 2 years. MARY was born in April, 1857; died in August, 1866. FRANKIE was born in August, 1861; died in August, 1866. They were both buried in one grave, near Elkhart.

4.—JOHN MCNAY

was born Aug. 24, 1833; was married to Phebe J. Fos-

ter, of La Porte, Ind., Oct. 1858. They live near Crown Point, Ind., and have three children, viz: Charles E., Lewis E. and Rosa J.

CHARLES E. was born Dec. 2, 1861; married Addie Fuller; and they also live near Crown Point. They have two children, viz: Nellie and Vada.

LEWIS E. was born Oct. 1, 1863; married Petta Hill, and they have one daughter, Inez. They also live at Crown Point.

Rosa J. was born April 21, 1871, and lives with the parents.

#### 5.—MARGERY McNAY

was born March 11, 1835; married Charles Gibbs, of Elkhart, in the year 1856. They are farmers and live at Burt, Kossuth county, Iowa. They have had five children, viz: EDDIE, married, in Iowa, and has one son; FLORENCE, died when six years old; ALBERT, FRANK and EFFIE, still living at home.

#### 6.—SARAH McNAY

was born May 14, 1837; married James Ruple in Jan., 1860. They live four miles west of Elkhart, and have had three children, viz: Ella, Eddie and Carrie. ELLA died when 14 years of age. EDDIE was born May 5, 1867. CARRIE was born Oct. 1869; is a school teacher. They are all Methodists.

#### 7.—PETER ALEXANDER McNAY

was born Aug. 4, 1839; married Laura Wheeler, of Lowell, Lake county, Ind., where they still reside. He was a union soldier in the late rebellion. They have four children, viz: Philip, Charles, Pearl and Gilbert.

PHILIP married Mary Sargeant at Hebron, Ind., Sept. 4, 1890, where they reside, and have one daughter, viz: Lela Minerva.

CHARLES married Alpha Purdy, and they have a son.

PEARL and GILBERT live at home with their parents.

Philip and Charles are telegraph operators, and the father is a dealer in wood and coal at Lowell, Ind.

## 8.—FRANCIS ASBURY McNAY

was born June 22, 1843; married Cornelia Washburn in March, 1875; is a railroad man and runs from Elkhart to Chicago. They have one child, Maud Inez, 9 years old. They reside at Elkhart, Ind.

In closing the biography of the McNay family Cynthia Oakes says: "Had my mother, Rachel McNay, lived until now, she would have twenty-three living grand children and five dead; twenty great-grandchildren living and one dead."

## 9. JAMES ALEXANDER, JR. (TWIN)

James Alexander was born Oct. 5, 1807; was never married. In disposition he was rather quiet and peculiar. During his life he engaged in various occupations. But little is known among his relatives of his life, definitely. It is said, however, that at times he acquired considerable property. He was fond of a gun and a good dog, and took pride in owning fine stock. He moved to McLain county, Ill., in an early day, and resided there until his death, May 24, 1888. He is buried near Bloomington, Ill. He left some property, (about \$1,200 in money.) Sain Welty, an attorney at Bloomington, was appointed by the court as administrator of his estate, and has since been looking up the heirs of the estate, with a view to the settlement of the same.

## 10.—MARJERY ALEXANDER, (TWIN OF JAMES.)

Marjery Alexander was born Oct. 5, 1807; married Thomas J. Harriman in Quincy, O. He was a miller by trade, and for many years justice of the peace; belonged to the old Whig party. He died at Quincy in 1841, and is buried there. Marjery lived a widow for 47 years, on the old homestead in Quincy, with her daughter Martha and her son Edward. She outlived all her brothers and sisters. After a noble life she died at a good old age, Sept. 5, 1888. She was a Methodist.

She is buried in the new cemetery at Quincy. She was the mother of eleven children, viz: Abbot A., Rachel A., Mary J., Oliver P., Thomas J., Martha, James E. and four who died in infancy, not named.

1. ABBOT ALEXANDER HARRIMAN

married Mary Barnard; is a merchant, and has been sheriff. They are Methodists, and reside at Golaid, Tex. They have three children, viz: ELLEN, CLYDE and MARY.

2. RACHEL ANN HARRIMAN

died single at about forty years of age.

3.—MARY JANE HARRIMAN

died at two years of age.

4.—OLIVER PERRY HARRIMAN

also died in infancy.

5.—THOMAS JEFFERSON HARRIMAN

married Matilda Davis in Kansas. He is a farmer and they live at Emporia, Kan. They have two children, viz: MARY JANE, who is married to a cattle dealer and lives at Emporia; JOSEPH EDWARD, single.

6.—MARTHA HARRIMAN

married Charles McKinney Nov. 4, 1861, at Quincy, O. He was a farmer, and they belonged to the Methodist church. He was a soldier in the union army, from the effects of which he died March 10, 1865. They had two children, both of whom died in infancy, not named. Martha, the widow, has ever since lived at the old homestead in Quincy, took care of her mother until her death, and keeps house for her brother Edward.

7. JAMES EDWARD HARRIMAN

has always resided at Quincy, on the old homestead. He with his brothers Thomas and Abbot were soldiers in the union army. He received a wound for which he draws a pension. He is a merchant and a bachelor, residing with his widowed sister Martha.

## 11TH.—EDWARD ALEXANDER.

was born in Champaign county, O., Aug. 8, 1809. He with some of his younger brothers and sisters were left orphans after the death of his father and mother. He was given a good home in a family near by, by the name of Stewart, and afterwards married in the family, Jan. 30, 1834, to Elizabeth Stewart. She was born Sept. 26, 1815. In the fall of 1837 they moved, in company with his brother Robert, the two families taking all they had with them, to Elkhart county, Ind., where they stopped until Feb., '38. Thence they moved to Wells county, Ind., then a new and almost unsettled country, where they each entered a tract of government land as a homestead; these two tracts being only a half mile and a mile from the birth place and old home of the writer. It is peculiarly fitting that we dwell a little longer upon this locality and upon the surroundings in connection with the biography of this family. The old school house grounds, known from that time to this as the "Alexander school house," was located on the corners, and on the line between these two tracts of land entered by Robert and Edward Alexander, in Jackson township, in this early day. The first school building, as well remembered by the writer, was a rude, hewed log structure, with benches for seats, made of small logs split in halves, with four wooden legs in each bench. The writing desks were made of broad, thick, split boards, pinned to the wall, slanting slightly downward. The roof was made of clapboards. Several years afterwards, at a spelling school one night, the boys mischievously threw fire on the roof of this old-fashioned building, from which it took fire and burned to ashes. In this old log building the writer hereof learned to spell, read and write. It was soon replaced by a frame building, which stood for many years, when it was removed, and now a substantial brick structure stands in its place, on the same old cherished spot of

ground, where boys and girls still gather to study and play at the Alexander school house. The old home-stead of Uncle Ed., (as we called him,) adjoins the school ground. His old house was just  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant. A word in description of its familiar surroundings: It had many land marks, simple, plain and old-fashioned, such as the sweep-pole well, with "the old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket, the moss-covered bucket" that hung in it; the milk house near by it; the barn-yard and garden; and then the fields with straight, high rail fences around them, clear of weeds and rubbish, the even rows of corn, spaced just four feet and no more--and seldom was the yield greater in the country than in these fields. In the spring out on the green pastures near by the house were the big fat calves and the playing lambs; then in the barn-lot were the big and little hogs, either white or black, and the best blood the country could produce. Uncle Ed. took great pride in showing his stock and grain, and asserting very firmly that his was second to none in the country. He dealt in quality more than quantity. His farining was on a small scale, but was done at the right time and in the right way. He always had good, big, fat horses, and good producing milch cows. He would have the best or none. He took life easy, and was always ready with a dry joke. In disposition Edward Alexander was quick-tempered and allowed no man to insult him, or to "cross his path." He was strong, rugged and outspoken, and would fight quickly for his country or his character. In stature he was broad and square shouldered, and of medium height. He was a great trader, and was quite successful. He was an excellent marksman, and perhaps found his greatest delight, in the early days, in hunting wild game. Even in his old days few younger men could carry away more prizes for mark shooting. He was always a staunch Republican, but a member of no church. He

died in March, 1884, of cancer in the throat, and is buried at Asbury Chapel, near his old home. His wife, "Aunt Betty," as she is known, lives with their youngest child, Abbot, on the old homestead. She is a member of the Christian church. She has long been known for her kind and generous influences, and deeds of charity among those with whom she has lived. To them were born ten children, the oldest dying in infancy, not named. They raised nine, all of whom are still living and have families, viz: Mary Jane, Serena, Perry, Margery, Marseilles, Commodore, Olive, Nancy and Abbot.

1.—MARY JANE ALEXANDER

was born Oct. 7, 1835; married William Purdue, a minister, a farmer, and of late years a fruit grower. They have had four children, two boys and two girls. LITHIA BELLE, died in infancy; second, dead born; BERTIE, died at six years of age; CALVIN, living with his parents, and studying medicine. They reside at Warren, Ind., and are quite influential and well-to-do citizens. They belong to the Christian church.

2.—SERENA ALEXANDER

was born Dec. 23, 1837; married Elias Modlin. She was formerly a school teacher. He is a farmer, and they reside in Grant county, Ind. They have one son, WILLIAM, a school teacher, 24 years of age, who resides in Grant county also. They are Wesleyan Methodists.

3.—MARGERY ALEXANDER

was born Jan. 23, 1840; married Elijah Alspach. He died Oct. 5, '86, from the effects of an injury received while a soldier in the union army. His widow lives on their well improved farm in Wells county, near Keystone. Both were members of the Wesleyan Methodist church. They raised two children, viz: MARY ELIZABETH, died Aug. 1, '86, aged 19 years; EVA AGNES, 18 years of age, and lives with her mother. Elijah and Elizabeth are buried at Asbury Chapel cemetery.

## 4. PERRY ALEXANDER

was born March 14, 1842; He married first Elsie Roby; lived at Bluffton, Ind., and raised two children, viz: SAMUEL M., about 25 years of age, and is in business at Fort Wayne, Ind. GERTRUDE E. is married and also lives at Fort Wayne. Perry re-married in Jay county, Ind., to Jennie Morrical, and they live near Portland, Ind., and have one child. He is engaged in the stock business.

## 5. MARSELLES ALEXANDER

was born Aug. 11, 1844; married first Emily Kelly, and they had two children, viz: CHARLES V., died at two years of age; WALTER E., died at one year of age. Near the same time his wife died, and all three are buried at Asbury Chapel, near his father's old homestead. His second wife was Laura Spaulding. They had one child, LAURA JANE, who is 17 years of age and lives with her father. Second wife also died, and is buried near Montpelier, Ind. He married thirdly Mrs. King. They lived near Bluffton, Ind., where they had three children, viz: NELLIE, JOHN and PEARL; ages 10, 8 and 6 respectively. The mother died in September, 1891. He with their children live on their valuable farm near Bluffton, Ind. He is engaged in the stock business

## 6. COMMODORE ALEXANDER

was born March 13, 1847; married Francis Runkle, and they live comfortably on their little farm adjoining his father's homestead. To them have been born seven children, six living and one dead, viz: EVERET B., PEARL G., (twin, dead,) NANCY E., OLIVE, FRANK B. and a baby boy, ranging in ages from 15 years to six months, respectively. Commodore and his wife belong to the Christian church.

## 7. OLIVE ALEXANDER

was born May 20, 1850; married Jonas W. Griffith, a carpenter and contractor. They belong to the Christian church, and reside in their beautiful little home at

Warren, Ind. They have three children, viz: CLARA M., ETTA LEOTA and PERRY AUSTIN, ages 19, 17 and 13 respectively.

8. NANCY E. ALEXANDER

was born Aug. 11, 1853; married George Eli in '84, and they have a fine home in Montpelier, Ind., where George is engaged in the grocery business. They have had two children, viz: CLIFFORD K., died at the age of 3½ years; and Mable E., born Sept., '91. Nancy belongs to the Methodist church.

9. ABBOT ALEXANDER

was born Sept. 13, 1857; married Catharine Smithgall, and they have two children, viz: MYRTLE, 7 years old, and CLARA A., two years of age. They reside at the old homestead in Wells county, Ind., and are well-to-do farmers.

Marselles and Perry Alexander were both volunteer soldiers in the union army. Commodore is considerably above the average size of men, being full six feet and two inches in height.

12TH.—PETER W. ALEXANDER.

Peter Alexander was born in Sept., 1811. He was but a young lad when left an orphan, and was given a good home with his brother Robert until he became a man. He was tall and manly; his hair was red, and in disposition it is said he was amiable and good. He married Rebekah Randall, of Quincy, Ohio, who was about nine or ten years his junior, and to them were born two children at Quincy, viz: MARTIN LUTHER and MARY JANE. Peter died at Quincy July 4, 1851, and he is buried at Indian Creek cemetery, near where he died. About seven years later his widow married Calvin H. Cornell, a shoemaker. He died recently, and she is still living in their little home at Quincy. The mother, "Aunt Becky," as she is familiarly known, is a bright and pleasant old lady to converse with, and loves to talk

about the relatives of her first husband, of whom her recollections are quite vivid; and it is with pleasure and delight that she welcomes any of them to her home.

1. MARY JANE ALEXANDER,

their first child, was born Oct. 9, 1843; married Edwin Cox, a railroad engineer. She belongs to the Methodist church, and they reside at Newark, O. They have had twelve children, all of whom are dead but one. Their names are as follows, to wit: Bradley, (died young;) Roy, (died at 6 years;) Effie, (died at 17 years;) Jessie, (died in infancy;) Nellie, (living, aged about 17;) two pairs of twins, (all died in infancy, not named;) Clarence, (died at 2 years;) Cary, (died at 12 years of age;) the last one dead born.

2. MARTIN LUTHER ALEXANDER

the second child of Peter, was born at Quincy, O., Jan. 13, 1846, where he lived with his mother until '61, when he moved to Iowa, where he worked on a farm until Feb. '64. He then enlisted in the 9th Iowa infantry and served under Gen. Sherman during the remainder of the war. He married Nancy E. Johnson, of Hamilton county, Iowa, on June 14, 1868. To them have been born twelve children, eleven of whom are still living, ranging in ages from 23 to 5 years, respectively. Their names are as follows, to wit: John P., Jacob W., Jennie M., (died at 4 years) Ella L., Martin D., Charles W., Rilla B., Archie L., Orley and Orvel, (twins) Eliza E. and Estella B. They are all living at home with their parents on their farm near Addison, Humboldt county, Iowa.

This completes the biography of James and Margery Alexander and their twelve children, embracing all of their descendants down to the present time, as fully as we in all our researches have been able to make it, except the family of my grandfather, Robert Alexander, who, as already stated, married Mary Wilkinson, and her biography will next be written.

## WILKINSON FAMILY.

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In the year about 1750 an aristocratic young man by the name of Joseph Wilkinson came from Europe to America to see the new world, expecting soon to return. We first learn of him in Virginia, where he fell in love with a girl by the name of Polly Hollinsworth, whom he afterwards married. After he became an old man he inherited a fortune in the old country. His friends thought him too old and infirm to go after it, (Money in those days had to be brought over the waters in gold, or coin of some kind,) and no vessel of that day made a voyage in less than six months. So they hired a man to go after this fortune. He lifted the money and was never heard of afterwards. It was thought that he was shipwrecked or died in some other way, as he never returned.

The above sketch and information of the origin of our Wilkinsons in this country is furnished by one Joseph Wilkinson, now residing at Pemberton, near Quincy, O. Our informant is a man 65 or 70 years of age. He is wealthy and quite generous; is a member of the Baptist church, and donates thousands of dollars for the benefit of churches and various benevolences. He is widely known as a good and influential man. He is married to his second wife. His father was one Thomas Wilkinson, who lived and died on Indian creek, near there. It is said also by our informant that from the early family of Joseph Wilkinson, as above related, all our Wilkinsons sprang. However,

he does not seem to know just what relation Asahel Wilkinson, (with whom we will begin our Wilkinson biography,) was to this family.

### ASAHEL WILKINSON.

Asahel Wilkinson was born in Harrison county, Va., Sept. 16, 1776. He married first Charity Ragan, about 1792, and with her and eight children he moved and settled in Adams township, Champaign county, O., in 1811; the first permanent settler in the township, just before the war of 1812. The wilderness was then swarming with Indians and wild game of all kinds. The bear was more common then than squirrels are now. It is said of Asahel that it was not uncommon for him to go out and kill a bear before breakfast, and that often he captured the cub bears after killing the old one, and raised them about the house as family pets. Martha Estlack, a grand-daughter, still living at Quincy, O., tells of often hearing her grandfather speak of his hunting and wild adventure with wild animals, and of the cunning of the young cub bears, how they carried clothing, hats and household articles and hid them away in logs and stumps, as carefully as if done by human hands. In this connection I copy a bit of history furnished me by my Aunt Rachel Sparr, of Muacie, Ind., concerning the early lives of Asahel Wilkinson and his wife. She says:

"My grandfather on my mother's side, Asahel Wilkinson, was of English descent. He was not a member of any church. He was a rough backwoodsman and delighted in hunting the wild game of which the country then abounded. This was true both in Virginia and Ohio. He was a soldier in the war of 1811 and 12, and had many narrow escapes for his life from the Indians. He loved in his old days to tell of his fights with the bear, the panther and other wild and savage animals. He was one of Virginia's tall, slender sons, a man of great endurance and courage, and with a will like iron. He was amply suited to the frontier life of his day. Grandmother's maiden name was Ragan. She was of Scotch descent, and a small, quiet, Christian woman, a

member of the New Light church, and died a Christian, Aug. 16, 1819. Grandfather re-married Feb. 8, 1821, to Nancy Tipton, (James) a good Christian woman. Grandfather wrote me a letter when he was in his 80th year. In that he said: 'I don't belong to any church but I have two sons preaching in the United Brethren church.' He says he wants to meet all his friends in heaven; says his mind is nearly gone, which his letter clearly shows. The date of this letter is 1855, at Champaign county, Ohio.

I also copy here a sketch upon the life of Asahel Wilkinson from one of his grandsons, J. H. Wilkinson, now a prominent lawyer of Washington, D. C.

"Nature had destined him for a hunter, as was seen by his constant trips to the forest in search of game. When quite young he was married to Charity Ragan. Up to the year of 1811 their union had been blessed with eight children. Making a living in Virginia was at that time a difficult task, and the outlook for the future was dark and gloomy. 'Go to Ohio' was the favorite cry of the Virginians, and as many others did go, Wilkinson finally came to a decision in 1811, and accompanied by his family and several neighboring families, started on his journey. Up to this time the axe of the sturdy pioneer had not been uplifted against the trees of the forests of Adams township, Champaign county, Ohio, but this year marked the arrival of the first actual settler in the person of Asahel Wilkinson, who settled in Section 14. He entered 260 acres of the section and paid for it with the proceeds obtained through the sale of furs. On this land were located sulphur springs, which were noted by the Indians as containing medicinal properties. They often congregated here to heal their sick, and also to indulge in shooting matches. When Wilkinson arrived here he secreted his cash possessions, which amounted to some \$200 in silver, in a stump near one of the springs. This stump was selected as a target by the red skins during one of their expeditions. Wilkinson being away from home, his wife feared the money would be discovered and carried off by the sharp-shooters, but fortunately her worst fears were not realized. On this farm was erected a block house during the Indian troubles. Wilkinson was on friendly terms with a number of the savages, but was insecure from those unacquainted with him. The latter arranged to attack the settlers in this neighborhood on a certain night. Wilkinson was apprised of this intended massacre by some of his dusky friends, and with his neighbors and their families retreated to the fort. They remained there for several days, but their cabins remained unmolested. The intended attack had been abandoned by its projectors. We have carried

the reader back some five or six years beyond the era of the first settlement. Upon returning to the starting point we find that Wilkinson was the only permanent settled resident up to 1812 and 13. During the first years of the township organization he was elected constable. This position he held for fourteen years. By his death Adams township was bereft of her first settler and one of her most influential citizens."

Asahel Wilkinson died Feb. 23, 1861, on his old place four miles south of Quincy, where he had lived for 50 years. The burial ground known as the Wilkinson cemetery is on this place, where he with his two wives, Charity and Nancy, are buried. His second wife died Oct. 15, 1860. He had twelve children with his first wife and two with his second wife, making fourteen in all, viz: Mary, (Polly) William, Jacob, Thomas, Asahel, Joseph, John G., Sarah, Nancy, Henry H., Eliza and Betsy. From his second wife James and Asahel.

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1ST. — MARY WILKINSON.

Mary Wilkinson, my grandmother, (Polly, as she was familiarly known,) was born in Harrison county, Va., Oct. 11, 1793. She moved with her parents to Champaign county when a young girl. After her mother's death she took charge of the home for her father. She was an exemplary girl, in disposition and character, and it is said was greatly admired and loved by both her own mother and step-mother. At the age of 29 she married. Further on we shall take up her life where we now leave it, and follow it to her death.

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2D. — WILLIAM WILKINSON.

William Wilkinson was born in Harrison county, Va., Feb. 25, 1795. He was first married to Jane Standage, at West Liberty, O. They moved near Benton, Elkhart county, Ind., where he acquired a large tract of land, over a thousand acres, lying in what is known as the Elkhart valley. He there became quite wealthy, and was also a prominent lawyer. He was married to

a second wife, and lived to be quite old. He had a large family, only four of whose names we have been able to find, viz: William, James, Thomas S. and Mary.

1.—WILLIAM WILKINSON, JR.

moved to California in an early day, and nothing further is known of him. (James and William were twins.)

2.—JAMES WILKINSON

moved to California in an early day, and nothing further is known of him.

3.—THOMAS S. WILKINSON

was first a school teacher in Ohio, and moved to California in 1849. He was first engaged in mining there, and then in merchandising, and now owns a large ranch near Sacramento, and is also the owner of the American Eagle hotel in that city. He has always been known for his energy, courage and excellent manhood. He is a man of great influence, well known and highly respected. We regret not to be able to give particulars regarding his family; we know nothing of them further than that he married a bright and intelligent girl, a school teacher, from Indiana, near his father's home, a short time after going to California.

4.—MARY WILKINSON

married a man by the name of Haynes, and they resided near Chillicothe, O.

This meager sketch of William Wilkinson and family is all we know of them.

3D.—JACOB WILKINSON.

Jacob Wilkinson was born in Harrison county, Va., Feb. 15, 1799. While a young boy he was stolen by the Indians, and was with them until he could speak their language, which he never forgot. He was afterwards married and lived in Indiana, where they both died. (Place not given.) They had one son. After their deaths, at the settlement of their estate, he could not be found, so it was believed that he was dead also.

## 4TH. THOMAS WILKINSON.

Thomas Wilkinson was born in Harrison county, Va. March 15, 1800. He married first a Miss Jackson, about 1824, from whom he had four children. His second wife was Charity Cisco, by whom he had seven children. They lived at Huntertown, Allen Co., Ind., on a farm, where Thomas died and was buried, in 1881 or 82. His widow afterwards moved to Fort Wayne, where she still lives with her youngest daughter. Of the first set of children the oldest is:

## 1. POLLY ANN WILKINSON.

She married first Robert Norcross, and they had two children. In 1848 or 49 her husband started for California and died on the road. Her second husband was Elisha Kiser. She is now a widow 66 years of age and lives near Quincy, O.

## 2.—WILLIAM WILKINSON

married and had one child; lives at Tippecanoe, O.

## 3. ELIZABETH WILKINSON

married Perry Bennett. She died young, leaving two children.

## 4. JESSE WILKINSON

went to California in the time of the gold fever and died there.

The names of the second set of children of Thomas Wilkinson are: Henry, Sarah J., James, Thomas, Jr., Laura, Minnie and John.

## 5. HENRY WILKINSON

was a lawyer and justice of the peace. He was an intelligent and honorable citizen of Fort Wayne, Ind., where he died of consumption in the winter of 1880. He left a widow and several children who still live there.

## 6. —SARAH J. WILKINSON

married a Mr. Arney. She died and left two small children, a girl and a boy, viz: LUILLA and ORA. Luella married Frank McMaken, in 1880. They live near Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## 7. JAMES WILKINSON

is married and has a family, and resides in Fort Wayne.

He has held numerous offices, constable, deputy U.S. marshal and other public offices. He is now a justice of the peace in that city.

## 8.—THOMAS WILKINSON, JR.

is married, has a family, and also lives in Fort Wayne. He is a politician, has held a number of offices of trust, and is now deputy sheriff of Allen Co., Ind., which office he has filled for a number of terms. Thomas and James are both Democrats.

## 9.—LAURA WILKINSON,

married and had a family.

## 10.—MINNIE WILKINSON

is unmarried and resides with her mother in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Live on East Wayne street.

## 11.—JOHN WILKINSON

married and moved to Valparaiso, Ind. He was educated for a school teacher. He died at 25 or 26 years of age, at Valparaiso.

## 5TH.—ASAHEL WILKINSON.

Asahel Wilkinson was born in Harrison Co., Va., Sept. 19, 1801. He died at about the age of 19, and is buried in the Wilkinson cemetery.

## 6TH.—JOSEPH WILKINSON.

Joseph Wilkinson was born in Harrison Co., Va., Aug. 22, 1803. He was married in Clark Co., O., Aug. 10, 1826, to Hannah Ellsworth, who was born on the banks of the Ohio, near Galliopolis, May 15, 1805. They raised a family of nine children, viz: Nancy A., Elizabeth J., John W., J. Henderson, William R., Hannah C., Sarah A., Joseph O. and Francis A. The father was a school teacher in his early life, was justice of the peace for upwards of 20 years, in Clark Co., Ohio. He was a lawyer and had an extensive practice; on ac-

count of his great success was sent for far and near. He followed his profession until quite old. His first wife died May 25, 1873, in Mechanicsburg, O., to which place they moved in 1849. On Feb. 4, 1875, he married his second wife, Mrs. Julia A. Brown, of Union Co., O., a cousin to his first wife. They are living happily in their old age in their pleasant home at Mechanicsburg. He lately celebrated his 88th birthday by a re-union of his children and grandchildren, and on this occasion the old man was as active and lively as when ten years younger. Both are enjoying good health, and bid fair to see many more birthdays.

1.—NANCY ANN WILKINSON,

their oldest child, was born Aug. 2, 1827, in Clark Co., O. She married George Yeazell Feb. 26, 1846. He was born May 4, 1824; is by occupation a farmer, stock raiser and shipper. He was elected treasurer of his county, which office he held for fourteen successive years; has also filled other offices. They had ten children, seven girls and three boys, as follows: Joseph M., James W., Thomas C., Hannah L., Anna B., Elizabeth J., Mary F., Sarah E., Georgia A. and Mable E.

JOSEPH MILTON, the oldest, was born Oct. 5, 1847; married Sarah E. Bumgardner Nov. 15, '68. She died Oct. 4, '72, and is buried at Asbury cemetery. He remarried to Emma C. Herston Jan. 13, 1875. He was enrolled Sept. 20, '64, in the 16 Battery of light artillery Ohio Vol., in the war of the rebellion, and was honorably discharged at New Orleans June 9, 1865. They reside on their farm near Catawba, O., where he is engaged in farming and stock raising; is trustee of Pleasant township, Clark Co., O., and commander of a G.A.R. post at Catawba.

JAMES WILLIAM was born March 9, 1849; married Amanda Neer, December 12, 1869. They reside near Catawba, Ohio, and he is a farmer and stock raiser.

THOMAS CARLISLE was born Oct. 4, 1850; died Aug. 9, 1870, and is buried at Asbury cemetery.

HANNAH LORETTA was born June 4, 1852; married John H. Conley, of Urbanna, O., Jan. 6, '76. They reside at Kenton, Harlan Co., O., where he is engaged in the business of carriage trimming.

ANNA BELLE was born June 26, 1854; married Nathaniel Bumgardner Nov. 12, '74, and they live on their farm in Clark Co., O. He is engaged in farming and stock raising, and also holds some township office.

ELIZABETH JANE was born Aug. 18, 1856; died Feb. 1858, and is buried at Asbury cemetery.

MARY FRANCES married Samuel M. Prugh, a school teacher, Aug. 4, 1877. He served as county auditor of Madison county, O., for six consecutive terms. He is an editor, and is the proprietor of the London (Ohio) Times. They reside at Plain City, Madison Co., Ohio, where he is engaged in the mercantile business.

SARAH ELLEN was born Aug. 24, 1860; married Jacob V. Bumgardner July 31, '79. He is a farmer and mechanic, and they reside near Catawba, Ohio.

GEORGIA ANGIE was born March 17, 1867; married Andrew Lellice Sept. 10, '83. He was killed on the railroad at Mechanicsburg, O., and is buried at Asbury cemetery. She afterwards married Newton James, who is engaged in farming near Catawba, Ohio.

MABLE ESTELLA was born June 16, 1872; single, and resides at home with her parents.

The above named children of Nancy and George Yeazell who have married all have children, but their names have not been supplied with this sketch.

2. ELIZABETH JANE WILKINSON was born in Champaign county, O., Oct. 27, 1828. She married Eli Whiterunyan, Dec. 11, 1851. He was born in Clark county, O., Feb. 11, 1832. He is a farmer and they reside on their farm three miles south of Catawba, O. To them have been born six girls, viz: Hannah

C., Martha J., Mary A., Lizzie F., Lula and Georgia.

HANNAH CATHARINE, the first, died young, August 27, 1854.

MARTHA JANE was born Aug. 24, 1854; married Wesley Wright, a farmer, June 8, 1878. They have two children, both living, viz: Gertrude and Jessie Rose. They reside near Asbury, Ohio.

MARY ANN was born Nov. 30, 1856; married James C. Beels, who was born in Monroe county, O., Sept. 19, 1858. They have three children living: Clement, Lawrence and Moody G. They reside near Asbury, O.

LIZZIE FRANCIS was born Jan. 16, 1863. She married Charles Beels, a farmer, who was born in Monroe Co., O., April 6, 1860. They have two children, both living, viz: Almira and Blanche May; also reside near Asbury.

LULA was born April 1, 1868; married Benjamin Miller, a farmer, who was born in Harding county, Ohio, Sept. 6, 1860. They have two girls, both living, viz: Jenness and Clara Etna.

GEORGIA G. was born Dec. 25, 1873; single, and lives at home with her parents.

3. JOHN WESLEY WILKINSON was born in Clark county, O., March 24, 1830; married Martha E. Creamer in 1852. She was born March 28, 1834. They reside on their farm adjoining Mechanicsburg. They have had six children, five girls and one boy, viz: Flocilla A., Mary E., Alpha H., Ella R., Joseph D. and Carrie.

FLOCILLA A. was born Aug. 28, 1853; married Frank E. McClintock Dec. 28, '76. He was born July 30, '51, and is engaged in farming in Clark county, O. They have three children, viz: Dora F., Carl F. and Beccie Carin, all living.

MARY E. was born Jan. 12, 1855; married Bruce Neer July 31, 1879. They have two children: Esta B. and Cloyce E. They reside on their farm in Clark county.

ALPHA H. was born Sept. 29, 1857; died Jan. 14, '69.

ELLA R. was born Feb. 11, 1861; died Jan. 13, 1869. Both are buried at Vernin, near Catawba.

JOSEPH D. was born Sept. 4, 1859; married Lettie Frankengerger Feb. 24, 1881, and they have one child, Gracie. They reside on their farm in Clark county, O.

CARRIE was born Sept. 17, 1871; single, and lives at home with her parents.

4. —J. HENDERSON WILKINSON

was born at Oak Grove farm, Clark county, Ohio, Jan. 3, 1832. He was educated in the Wesleyan university at Delaware, and afterwards read law at Springfield, O., with the late Hon. William N. White, chief justice of the supreme court of that state. He was admitted to practice in various courts, and finally in the supreme court of the United States. He was elected a delegate to the first national Republican convention, held at Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 22, 1856, when the national party was organized. He was married to Mary Gauze, at Kennett Square, Chester county, Pa., Nov. 17, 1858. She was born at that place June 18, 1833. She is of a prominent family of Friends. Many of her relatives are quite noted. Some are known the world over, and have filled high and honorable positions. Among them may be noted briefly the world renowned Bayard Taylor, one of America's famous authors, who died at Berlin, Germany, Dec. 19, 1878, while an American minister. He was a first cousin to Mrs. Wilkinson, and one of her most intimate friends. I here copy a beautiful original poem, written by him in her album Nov. 29, 1858, a few days after her marriage. It has never before appeared in print.

Man alone creates Elysium for the soul of man;  
The ample Future and the God-like reader  
Of new existence, are the prophesies  
Of humble Love, and in the souls that love  
And are beloved, the shining ether swims,  
Whereon we o'erlook the world,  
And Life and Death and everything but Heaven.

At Home, Nov. 29, 1858.

BAYARD TAYLOR.

Mrs. Wilkinson's oldest brother is a prominent manufacturer, and worth several millions of dollars. She herself has been and is a very prominent woman, and is well identified in the works of charity at Washington, D. C. She is the founder of the institution in that city known as the "Young Woman's Christian Home." She obtained its charter, and was for two years its president. This institution has through her efforts recently received appropriations from congress, and is fast becoming one of the most useful and prosperous of its kind in the country. Mrs. Wilkinson is a large hearted, charitable and intelligent woman. She has recently made a trip across the waters and traveled through many foreign countries in the interest of her chosen work. Many favorable newspaper comments in Washington and throughout the country have been passed upon her, and her highly commended enterprises.

J. H. Wilkinson first left Springfield, O., for Washington in 1862, to accept a position on the editorial staff of the "Daily National Republican." He held positions in the war and treasury departments, and in 1875 was sent to Europe by President Grant in connection with the founding of the U. S. loan. He was in official life for more than twenty years. In 1886 he was made a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1890 he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Social and Political Science. He is now actively engaged in the practice of law, his chosen profession, in Washington, although he still has his home in Springfield, O., where he first entered upon his profession and where he still goes annually to exercise his right of franchise. He is one of the country's highly honored and useful men; a life long Republican, a strong advocate for temperance, and a useful member of the Methodist church. To them have been born two children, viz: Anna Rebekah and Emma Taylor.

ANNA REBEKAH was born in Springfield, O., Jan. 25, 1860. She was educated in Washington high school, Mt. Vernon seminary and the Wesleyan Female college at Wilmington, Del. She was for several years a clerk in the U.S. pension office. She married Isaac D. Laferty, of Chester county, Pa. He is a lawyer by profession, but is now and has been for several years past special examiner of the bureau of pensions, and in this official capacity has served the government in several different states; and at present is in Michigan.

EMMA TAYLOR was born in Washington Dec. 18, 1864. She was educated in the grammar school at Washington, the seminary at Mt. Holyoke and the New England conservatory of music at Boston; and is now a clerk in the interior department. Recently she made a trip through the countries of Europe in company with her mother.

5. - WILLIAM RAPEN WILKINSON was born April 15, 1834, in Clark county, Ohio; married Delila Brown April 18, '65. She was born Feb. 5, 1840, in Madison county, O. He was first a merchant, but is now engaged in agricultural pursuits, and resides on his farm five miles east of Urbanna, O. To them have been born four children, viz: Maud B., Delia G. and William H., (twins) and Henry G.

MAUD B. was born Jan. 22, 1866; died Jan. 28, 1873, and is buried in Maple Grove cemetery, at Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

DELIA GERTRUDE was born July 11, 1869; died Aug. 21, '75, and is buried at the same place.

WILLIAM HERBERT was born July 11, 1869; single.

HENRY GLEN was born Sept. 17, 1871; single.

6. - HANNAH CHARLOTTE WILKINSON was born in Clark county, O., Nov. 22, 1837; married Stephen A. Ward Oct. 18, 1860. He was born in Clark county, O., Oct. 15, 1834; was for many years a prosperous farmer near Mechanicsburg. She died Feb. 25,

1877, and is buried at Maple Grove cemetery. To them were born four children, viz: Carrie F., Nellie R., Harlan G. and J. Henderson, all of whom are living.

CARRIE F. was born in Clark county, O., Dec. 18, '61; married to Baltzen Speasmacker July 4, '86. He is a carriage painter; born in Madison county, O., Feb. 6, 1861. They have had two children: Robert, (dead) and Bessie Don.

NELLIE R. was born in Champaign county, O., Feb. 2, 1868; resides in Columbus, O.

HARLAN GAUSE was born in Champaign county, O., Nov. 28, 1869; married Lena Borden Feb. 11, '89. They have one child, a daughter, named Ercel. The wife was born in London, O., Feb. 11, 1867.

J. HENDERSON was born in Mechanicsburg, O., Nov. 4, 1872; lives with his father and sister Nellie at No. 370 South 5th street, Columbus, Ohio.

7.—SARAH ALSINDA WILKINSON was born in Clark county, Ohio, June 17, 1839; married Tully McKinney July 19, '66. He was born in the same county Nov. 3, 1839. To them have been born six children, viz: Orr, Joseph C., Mary G., Effie May, Julia Ann and Bertha A.

FOREST ORR was born May 3, 1869; is a mechanic and lives at Mechanicsburg.

JOSEPH CHARLES was born Jan. 30, 1871. He is a telegraph operator at St. Joe, Ind.

MARY GAUSE was born Aug. 28, 1873; died Dec. 1, '76.

EFFIE MAY, born April 13, '76; lives with her parents.

JULIA ANN was born March 11, 1879; single, and resides with her parents.

BERTHA ADELIA was born July 27, 1881.

The father, Tully McKinney, was a soldier in the civil war. He enlisted the first day after Lincoln's first call for troops, April, '61, in Co. E. 16th Reg. O. V. I. He re-enlisted Aug. 11, '62, in company A., 94 O. V. I. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Chicamauga;

escaped and again returned to the army and went with Sherman on his march to the sea. His business is now that of a carpenter and contractor; is also a member of the city council, and they reside at Mechanicsburg.

8. JOSEPH ORR WILKINSON

was born Dec. 11, 1843; enlisted in the civil war Dec. '63. After serving his country a few months he fell in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga., June 27, '64. He belonged to Co. K., 113 O.V.I. He was buried in the national cemetery at Marietta, Ga. The last message he sent home read: "Tell mother I die fighting for my country; I die in a noble cause."

9.-FRANCES ADELIA WILKINSON

was born Aug. 20, 1847; married James Jefferson Messick Oct. 13, 1870. He was born April 21, '47; enlisted in the war, in the 86th Reg. Ohio Vol., was mustered out Sept. 25, '62; re-enlisted Dec. 1, '62, in the 95th Reg. O. V., and was honorably discharged June 16, '65. He is by occupation a teamster and they reside at Mechanicsburg. To them have been born three children, two of whom are living.

JOSEPH CULLEN was born May 1, '76.

BLANCHE WILKINSON was born July 30, '85.

7TH.-JOHN G. WILKINSON.

John G. Wilkinson was born Feb. 7, 1806, in Harrison county, Va. He married Susanna Arbogast July 8, 1829 in Clark county, O. He lived in Monroe and Champaign counties. He was a tanner and a stock and fur dealer, also a Methodist local preacher. He died in Shelby county, O., Sept. 26, 1874. His wife died in Henry county, O., July 20, 1886. To them were born ten children, viz: Martha C., Mary L., Henry H., Levi N., Margaret J., John A., Anna E., Laura C., Sarah C. and Newton.

1. MARTHA C. WILKINSON

married A. W. Estlack. To them were born two chil-

dren both of whom died in infancy. The widow still lives at Quincy, O. She is a good financier, has traveled extensively and owns considerable property.

2. MARY LOUISA WILKINSON  
died at the age of four years.

3. HENRY H. WILKINSON  
died single at the age of 21, and is buried in the Wilkinson grave yard.

4. LEVI N. WILKINSON  
died quite young.

5. MARGARET J. WILKINSON  
married David Coverstone a farmer. They live in Shelby county, near Quincy. They have seven children, viz: ALLEN, LEEMAN and FREEMAN, (twins) CORA, SELLA, EDWARD and CARY. Edward is married and lives at Deshler, Henry county, O.

6. JOHN A. WILKINSON  
was a soldier in the army; died single at the age of 23, at the battle of Pittsburgh Landing.

7. ANNA ELIZA WILKINSON  
married William Mitchell, formerly a school teacher, he was a soldier in the Union army. He is now editor of the Desler (Ohio) Flag. They have resided at Desler for 15 years. They are among the leading members of the Methodist church of that place. They have had one child, a daughter, IDA, who has lately been married.

8. LAURA C. WILKINSON  
married Isaac Hoffman, at Sidney, O. He is a carpenter. They belong to the Methodist church, and reside at Sidney, O. They have had four children, viz: SANNA, PEARL, (boy) MARY and the youngest died in infancy.

9. SARAH C. WILKINSON  
married Daniel Hoffman, a merchant. They reside at Springfield, O., and are prominent members of the Methodist church. They have four children, viz: FRANK, ANNIE, JESSIE and CORILLA. Frank is married and has one child.

## 10.—NEWTON WILKINSON

died when quite young.

## 8TH.—SARAH WILKINSON.

Sarah Wilkinson was born April 8, 1808; married Abraham Botkin Dec. 30, 1839. He was born also in 1808. She was a patient wife and a beloved mother, and had a remarkable faculty for making her home cheerful and pleasant, to which her children have always been attracted. After years of patient and enduring sickness she died May 29, 1876, of dropsy of the heart; and she is buried at Asbury Chapel. Her husband is still living in his extreme old age at Mechanicsburg; is a cripple and resides with his son Granville. To them were born ten children, viz: George William, Wallace, Elizabeth, Granville M., Joseph B., Lycurgus, Eliza, and one who died in infancy, not named.

## 1. GEORGE WALTER BOTKIN

was born Nov. 23, 1831, in Clark county, O. He was first a school teacher in Ohio and Illinois. In the meantime he read law with his uncle Joseph Wilkinson. He enlisted in the army in April, '61, under the first call of President Lincoln, returning from the battle-field honorably discharged in June, '64. He was married July 28, to Sidney C. Baker. After about two years' residence at Springfield they moved Aug. 4, '66, to Mound City, Lynn county, Kan., where he entered upon teaching as a profession. In 1869 he was elected to the office of county superintendent of public instruction of Lynn county, which position he filled for six consecutive years. After this he was superintendent of the La Cygne school for six years, which position he then resigned and was elected county treasurer of Lynn county. After serving out his term of office he went into the newspaper business, first as editor of the "Sun," at Blue Mound, Kan., and in '89 as editor

of the "Hutchinson Republican," at Hutchinson, Kan. He was the founder of this paper, and in two years made it a success, when he sold it and again removed to Galena, Kan., where they now reside, and are profitably engaged in mining lead and zinc. His wife is a woman of more than ordinary talent and influence; is well educated and a great worker in religious and temperance movements. They are members of the Methodist church, and both highly respected and esteemed by those who know them. They never had any children.

2. CHARLES BOTKIN

was born March 28, 1833; died at the age of two years.

3. WILLIAM BOTKIN

was born Nov. 6, 1834; married Clara Dines Oct. 23, '59. They have two children, KENTON and GEORGIANA.

Kenton married Hannah Clacker, of Mexico, Mo., and they have two children, a girl and a boy. They reside at Delaware, Ohio.

Georgiana married Nathan Fagley, of Delaware, O., and they have two girls living and one boy dead. They also reside at Delaware.

4. WALLACE BOTKIN

was born Oct. 23, 1836. He and his brother William enlisted in the 45th O.V.I. William was taken prisoner and died at Andersonville as near as we can tell on May 25, '64. Wallace was killed at the battle of Nashville Dec. 16, '64.

5. ELIZABETH BOTKIN

was born May 17, 1838; married Robert William in '66 or 7. He was a widower with six children. He died some years ago, and she died March 21, '90.

6. GRANVILLE MOODY BOTKIN

was born Feb. 29, 1840; has never married, and resides at Mechanicsburg, O. He takes care of his aged father.

7. JOSEPH BRUCE BOTKIN

was born Aug. 27, 1842; is married and resides at Mex-

ico, Missouri. He is a public spirited man and highly esteemed, having served as mayor of that city.

8.—LYCURGUS BOTKIN

was born Aug. 11, 1844; married Mary Shehan July 3, '66, and they have seven children. They reside near Grant, Mo.

9.—ELIZA BOTKIN

was born May 17, 1847; married William Gordon in '66, and they have four daughters. Her husband died some ten years since. Their oldest daughter is married to Holl Stoll, of Vienna Cross Roads, Ohio, and they have four children, three girls and one boy. Their postoffice address is Somerford, Ohio.

9TH.—NANCY WILKINSON.

Nancy Wilkinson was born June 5, 1810; married John Kannann. They moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., and settled there in an early day, where they both died, she some 20 years ago. He re-married and died about 1880. They had one son, ASAHEL KANNANN, who was for many years a prominent preacher in the Methodist church. We have no knowledge of his whereabouts at this time. They also had other children, at least one. Nothing further than this has been learned of this family in the preparation of this biography. Their home was on Calhoun street, Fort Wayne, Ind. His second wife still resides there. They were both devout members of the Methodist church until the time of their death.

10TH.—HENRY HARRISON WILKINSON.

Henry Harrison Wilkinson was born April 5, 1813. He was the first white child born in Adams township, Champaign county, Ohio; was twice married, and lived in Kosciusko Co., Ind.; was a Methodist preacher. They raised a large family, and we regret that nothing has been learned regarding them or their whereabouts.

## 11TH.—ELIZA WILKINSON.

Eliza Wilkinson was born July 30, 1815, in Champaign county, Ohio. Of her nothing further has been learned at this time. She died young.

## 12TH.—BETSY C. WILKINSON.

Betsy C. Wilkinson was born Feb. 19, 1817; married Abraham Cisco Dec. 9, 1841. He was born May 27, 1820; he died Feb. 15, '65. She still lives with her son Joseph E., at Carriesville, O. She is active and in good health, and bids fair to live many years yet. She is an intelligent conversationalist and is delighted to see or hear from any of her relatives. She is in possession of her father's old family bible from which the dates of births and deaths of his family are taken as written by his own hand. She is a member of the Christian church. Betsy Cisco is the mother of six children, viz: Mary E., Phebe J., Henry H., Joseph E., Marion C. and Emma D.

## 1.- MARY ELLEN CISCO

was born March 19, 1844; married Thomas Bodey. They are farmers and have no children.

## 2. PHEBE JANE CISCO

was born Aug. 24, 1846; married Dr. LaFever, and died on the old Cisco place, near Carriesville, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1875. They had two children, viz: Lucius M. and Louisa J.

LUCIUS M., born Nov. 13, 1861. He married Mamie Grace. Reside in Georgia, near Luella post office.

LOUISA J. was born March 20, 1874. She is single and resides with her father, Dr. LaFever, who remarried and lives at Luella post office, Ga.

## 3. HENRY HARRISON CISCO

was born May 15, 1849; died Nov. 11, 1855.

## 4. JOSEPH E. CISCO

was born Feb. 5, 1851; married Charlotte Bomes. They are farmers, and live at Carriesville, Ohio. They have two children, Delia M. and Minnie.

## 5.—MARION C. CISCO

was born June 20, 1857; died April 22, '58.

## 6.—EMMA D. CISCO

was born Aug. 6, 1859; died June 1, '60.

## 13TH.—JAMES WILKINSON.

James Wilkinson, first child from Asahel Wilkinson's second wife, was born Nov. 1821; married Sarah Collin. They reside at Mill creek, Bourbon county, Kan., near Fort Scott. He is a preacher in the U. B. church. They have had six children, two of whom are still living and four dead, viz: William and Book, living; and Elizabeth, Gersham, Martha and Mary, dead.

## 1.—WILLIAM WILKINSON

is married and has two children. They reside in Kansas, near Fort Scott.

## 2.—BOOK WILKINSON

married James Dearheart. They have one child and live near Fort Scott, Kan.

## 3.—ELIZABETH WILKINSON

married George Mullenour, and they had two children, Wilmer and Charles. The mother is dead. The husband is a farmer and resides in Kansas.

4.—GERSHAM, 5.—MARTHA, and 6.—MARY WILKINSON all died young, and are buried in the old Wilkinson graveyard, in Ohio.

## 14TH.—ASAHEL WILKINSON, JR.

Asahel Wilkinson, Jr., second child of second wife, was born on the old place Feb. 25, 1824; married Mary Collard April 3, 1845. They have had five children, Susanna, Gersham, Nancy E., William, and the youngest, who died before being named.

## 1.—SUSANNA WILKINSON

married Edward Ulrich, who died in 1887. They had one child, MARY, who married Milton Abbot, a farmer, and they reside at Sidney, Ohio. The mother, Susan-

na, a widow, lives with them.

2. GRESHAM WILKINSON

married Flora Heath. To them have been born six children, four living, two dead, viz: Lillian, (dead) Pearl Victoria, (dead) Ernest, Bessie and Tony B. They are farmers, and reside six miles from Monmoth Springs, Arkansas.

3. NANCY E. WILKINSON

married Peter Keeseker, and they have one child, Edward. They belong to the Methodist church, are farmers and reside at Lake View, Ohio.

4. WILLIAM WILKINSON

married Sarah Heath, and they have two children, viz: Maud and Blanche. They are also farmers and belong to the Methodist church; residing on the old place with his father. Asahel Wilkinson, Jr., with his wife, his son William and his family reside on the old place where his father settled before the war of 1812. The old hewed log house has been plastered and weather-boarded. He is a farmer, and both he and his wife belong to the Methodist church. Both are yet active in life, and make it very pleasant and interesting for those who visit them.

This concludes the biography of the Wilkinson family as we have it, including Asahel Wilkinson, Sr., and his fourteen children, except Mary, my grandmother, who is next given. With some of the families it is quite meager and imperfect. It is after many efforts that so much has been secured and thus compiled.

P.S. There are several well-to-do Wilkinsons living in and about Pemberton, Ohio, among whom are Isaac and Newton, whose fathers were Thomas and Isaac, in former days wealthy merchants of that locality. These are all distant relatives of Asahel Wilkinson, and bear a family resemblance.

## ROBERT AND MARY ALEXANDER.

Robert and Mary (Wilkinson) Alexander, my grandparents, as before stated, were married in Logan county, Ohio, Feb. 26, 1822. They took into their home Peter Alexander, Robert's youngest brother, then an orphan, and he lived with them for several years. In the year 1825 they both joined the Methodist church. In their humble little home in Ohio, in that early day of honest toil, they struggled hard for a livelihood until the month of May, 1837, when with a family of six children, in company with his brother, Edward Alexander and family moved in covered wagons through the wilderness to Elkhart county, Ohio. On this trip they took with them horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, a shepherd dog etc., with two or three hired men to assist in driving the stock. In that day the wagon roads were quite new and difficult of travel, and it took many days to make this short trip. Inspired, however, with the hope, anxiety and curiosity of a home of their own in a new country, they cheerfully pursued their way through the wilderness and across the swamps day after day to their destination. Here they temporarily stopped until Feb. 1838, when they again resumed their travel in the same company and manner to the then wild and almost uninhabited lands of Jackson township, Wells county, where Robert and Edward had each entered a tract of 160 acres of land in the fall previous. On these lands not a tree had been cut. They built their cabins, each on his own tract, a distance of about a half mile apart. In the mean time both families, together with two other families, lived in a rude log cabin about three quarters of a mile distant. In this cabin twenty-six persons lived together for a period of two or three weeks. The small log hut Robert first built on his own land had but one room and one door. The door was made high enough from the ground so that the hogs could not get inside. On first moving into it clapboards were

used for a floor, laid over the snow and mud until the fire thawed and dried the ground. At this time there were but six other families in Jackson township.

The frontiersmen were good marksmen, and from the abundance of deer and other wild animals they procured their meat. With the old-fashioned flint-lock rifle it was not an uncommon thing for boys to go into the woods and kill deer so large it had to be cut into pieces before taken home. One of them would stay for hours and watch the game while the other went after help to carry or haul it home. The entire country was thickly timbered, so that moving objects could be seen but a few rods away. The Indians abounded on every hand, roving about in their native garb, "Indian style."

The first church society in the township was organized at Robert Alexander's house with eleven members. The first sermon was preached in their little cabin by the Rev. Geo. W. Bowers, on Christmas eve, 1838. The preacher was a tall, black-eyed, black haired young man of about twenty-five, and with a clear, sharp voice. He traveled 25 miles on foot and held regular meetings at this place for many weeks. In 1840 Robert was licensed to preach by the Methodist quarterly conference, after which he organized churches and held meetings all over the country. This he continued until in his old days. Especially was he called to preach funerals. He belonged to the old line Whig party until the organization of the new Republican party, which he always afterwards strongly supported. He served for several years as trustee of his township, and filled other positions of public trust. He was an honest, hard-working farmer, and always took great pride in doing his work right. By perseverance and industry he added one acre after another to his cultivated land until he made a farm. His education was very meager, but his manner and language were such that the lack of

schooling was scarcely noticed. It however embarrassed him, so that in his old age it was a great task for him to go before the public. He said others were educated and would know he was not. As a public speaker he was much above the average of uneducated men of that class in his day. His judgment was broad and liberal, and he was consulted on important questions of the day. In business matters he was prompt, firm and decisive. He seldom wrote letters, thinking he could not spell well; he had others do this for him. And yet a short letter written with his own hand to his daughter Rachel Sparr, dated Feb. 15, 1862, shows a plain, clear business style, intelligently worded, and contains no misspelt words. This was a business letter in answer to advice asked for by her. Although written some 8 or 10 years before his death was probably the last letter he ever undertook to write himself. In disposition he was characteristic of good humor and of "cracking dry jokes," and yet in all things quite matter of fact. To him life was a stern reality. He was warm hearted and benevolent, and would rob himself in order to contribute to the needs of others. He had some peculiarities: one was, he would never ride on horseback in making trips through the neighborhood, but preferred to walk as a matter of right as he believed. He never would have his picture taken. In religious matters, he concerned himself deeply in the spiritual welfare of his neighbor. Until he was quite old he went wherever called to preach, or to visit the sick and poor, administering help wherever he found need. In size and appearance Robert Alexander was a man a little above medium size, broad shouldered and well proportioned, black hair, changing to an iron gray which he wore cut short, very little bald, broad forehead with blue or gray eyes and a heavy beard which he always kept shaved. His features were strong and characteristic of firmness, and in general appearance he

seemed to change but very little during the last 10 or 15 years of his life. On his death bed with his children gathered about him, when his voice was so weak it could only be heard in a very faint whisper, among his last words he said: "I am going to leave you now, I have done nothing, I am but a humble worm of the dust. If I have been instrumental of any good I am worthy of no credit for it. I have merited nothing; it is the work of my Master." He said: "It has always been my prayer that I might die in my right mind and without pain, so that I could tell this experience to you. That prayer has been fully answered." As the breath was leaving him, he named a number of his friends who had gone before, and said he saw them away in the distant surrounded by thousands of stars. This was his last testimony. He died April 4, 1872. He was a lover of music and his favorite hymn was: "There is a fountain filled with blood," which by his request was sung at his funeral. He was buried at Asbury Chapel, near by his home.

Mary Alexander, "Aunt Polly" as she was best known (my grandmother,) was a woman who always showed great concern for others when in need. She was considered the best woman in the country to wait on the sick. In fact she was called the country physician. In her manner she was active and quick. Her voice had in it an affectionate, charming ring, peculiar to her kind and motherly feeling for others, always ready to administer to the sick and the poor. She even kept food baked and ready to give away to such persons. Her charity was ever exhibited on all sides wherever poverty was found. She was benevolent and would make great personal sacrifices in order to be able to give to others. She was not only a kind, loving and indulgent mother to her own family, but was always ready to shed a tear for the troubles of others. However, she was usually cheerful, a good talker and a great story

teller. In size she was slender, and below the average in weight. Her hair was brown and golden and never turned gray, her eyes were brown, and for many years before her death there was a large lump on the front of her neck. For some months before her death she became almost entirely blind. They lived in the little log cabin for many years, when it was replaced by a small frame, which still stands in the same place, in this they both died. She died Oct. 31, 1869, and is also buried at Asbury Chapel.

We close this sketch of their lives with each of their obituaries, which were published in the *Western Christian Advocate*.

"Rev. Robert Alexander was born in Mifflin county, Pa., Feb. 19, 1793, and died in Wells county, Ind., April 4, 1872, in his eightieth year. While he was yet a child his parents came west and settled in Champaign county, Ohio. Here he grew up to manhood, and on the 26th of Feb. 1822, was married to Miss Mary Wilkinson. In 1825 they were both converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church, under the late Rev. Levi White, and at once began an active and earnest Christian life. In 1828 he was granted an exhorter's license, and for twelve years he served the church faithfully in this capacity, never regarding his authority as a merely honorary relation, but as imposing, active responsibilities. After changing his place of residence some two or three times he finally settled in the southern part of Wells county, Ind., in the fall of 1838, then an almost unbroken wilderness. But he did not, like many, leave off the claims of religion because of the hardships and embarrassments incident to beginning life in a new country, but erecting for himself and family a small cabin, he also erected the family altar, from which ascended the incense of the morning and evening sacrifice, and the altar fires were never allowed to go out. Soon after he had entered his cabin home, hearing of Brother John Ervin, a local preacher living at some distance, he sought him out and engaged him to come and preach in his wilderness home, to the few settlers who were near enough to be gotten together; and soon after the missionary, Rev. G. W. Bowers, then traveling up and down through that region of country, found his way to his humble home, and established a regular preaching place there; and on Christmas day, 1838 he organized a class of eight persons, and Father Alexander was appointed leader; but the fact was soon discovered

that he was capable of serving the church usefully in a more extended field. Accordingly, in 1840 he was licensed to preach, and, feeling called of God to a more responsible work, he at once began to look out for opportunities of usefulness, calling the people together and preaching to them where only a few willing hearers could be found; and, wherever it was practicable, forming societies, and, as soon as he could, securing for them the services of the regular itinerants. In this way, with the blessing of God, the field within his reach was soon all occupied for Christ, and until the morning of eternity it will not be known what gracious results were achieved by the faithful labors of this good man. He continued to work actively for the glory of the Master until the infirmity of age and the weight of years compelled him to desist. But although unable to go out and do active service as in former years, his great pleasure in the church's prosperity was unabated.

"In 1869 he was attacked with a severe spell of sickness, from which the family and friends thought he would not come up, but after a time he seemed quite recovered. It was during this sickness that he received the witness of full salvation, which he continued to confess and enjoy until he gained the home of the blessed in Heaven. In March last he was prostrated with a chronic form of diarrhea, and continued to decline steadily until the 4th of April, when death ended the struggle. Throughout his last sickness he was very full of peace, and his end was most triumphant. His wife and two of the children preceded him to the better land, and four of the children yet remain below, but are seeking to join the departed ones, where parting will be no more."

"Mary Alexander, wife of Rev. Robert Alexander, and daughter of Asahel Wilkinson, died in her seventy-sixth year. She was born in Virginia in 1793, and moved to Champaign county, O. in 1815, and was married to her now bereaved husband Feb. 26, 1822. She was converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal church in 1825. She emigrated to Indiana in 1837, and settled on what is now the old homestead, in Wells county, in 1838. She received gladly to her new home on Christmas day of the same year, that man of God, Rev. G. W. Bowers, and for thirty years many christian ministers have found hearty welcome to her home and hospitalities. She maintained and enjoyed the life and power of religion for thirty-two years. She suffered much bodily affliction since March 1866, and for nearly two years suffered the loss of sight. She had a paralytic stroke May 23, 1868 and a second one Oct. 30. On the following day Oct. 31, she peacefully passed through death and joined the ransomed on the other side

of the river to share in bliss immortal."

To them were born six children, all of whom they raised and became parents, viz: Rachel, John, James, Nancy, Robert F. and Betty.

1.—RACHEL ALEXANDER

was born in Logan county, O., April 3, 1823. She resided with her parents until her marriage. In early life she became a member of the Methodist church. She married the Rev. James Sparr, Sept. 29, 1846. He was born in Cabbel county, Va., May 22, 1817. He was for many years a traveling minister under the direction of the quarterly conference of the Methodist church, and ever since has been and is yet a local preacher in that church. And even now, at the age of 75 years, he preaches a sermon almost weekly in some of the neighboring societies about Muncie. He was compelled to give up traveling on account of poor health. He has always been and is yet an industrious man, has worked hard by days work at his trade, that of cementing cisterns, for a livelihood. He was at one time engaged in the hotel business for a short time. He is an industrious student and has consequently kept himself well informed on the current events of the day as well as matters of a general and secular character. He is a man who makes but few enemies, kind, generous and sympathetic with all, and is especially beloved by his family and friends. Rachel Sparr has been in many ways prominently connected with public work, especially in the Woman's Foreign Missionary and Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She has always been an active and earnest worker in the Methodist church. She is well known for her helping hand on behalf of the poor and cast off. She is a woman of excellent judgment and of more than average ability. She has made a careful study of nature, and her safe counsel and advice comes from a wide observation and a deep concern for the welfare of humanity. She has many

of her mother's characteristics, and has always taken great interest in collecting and preserving biographical sketches of her ancestors. They reside pleasantly and comfortably alone in their old age at Muncie, Ind., where their home has always been. To them have been born eight children, viz: Robert G., James M., Mary E., Julia E., Rachel E., Letta B. and Emma M.

ROBERT GUTHRIE was born Oct. 27, 1848; died at about 1 year of age.

JAMES MILTON was born April 30, 1850; died at 1 year and 8 months of age.

MARY ELIZABETH was born Feb. 17, 1852; died at the age of 7 months.

JULIA E. was born July 17, 1853. She was educated in the schools at Muncie, and afterwards graduated in the medical school at Ann Arbor, Mich. She was first a teacher, meanwhile preparing herself for a missionary to China, under the direction of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Early in life she joined the Methodist church and has continued an active worker in it. She spent five years as a missionary teacher and physician in Foo Chaw, China. While there she met August Coffin, a tea merchant from Boston, whom she afterwards married at Muncie, Ind., May 1, 1884. They have one child viz: John August, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years of age. They reside at Boston and are engaged in the mercantile business.

RACHEL ELLEX was born April 3, 1856; died at the age of 8 years.

LETTA BELLE was born Feb. 26, 1858. She was educated in the schools at Muncie and was for many years a successful teacher and writer, having contributed many valuable articles to religious papers and other magazines. She is a member of the Methodist church and an active temperance worker. April 5, 1881 at Muncie, Ind., she married Samuel L. Luckett, a lawyer from southern Ind. In 1885 under the Cleveland

administration he was appointed to a high position in the interior department. He is also a member of the Methodist church and a prominent lawyer now practicing in Washington, where they have resided since his appointment there. They have two children, viz: George S., about six years old, and a baby.

EMMA MELISSA was born May 22, 1860. She was educated in the schools at Muncie and was for several years a teacher there. In Nov. 1890 she married Joseph Brown an ex-city clerk of Muncie, and now engaged in the insurance and real estate business. They reside at Muncie.

The eighth was an infant son (dead born) Oct. 1, 1862.

2.- JOHN ALEXANDER

(my father) was born in Logan county, O., April 23, 1825. When about 12 years of age he moved with his parents to Wells county, Ind. When but a small boy about 7 years of age, he witnessed the strange scene of nature known as the "falling of the stars." I have heard him speak of it in about the following language: "I was a little boy and it was in the morning just before daylight, my mother was up and called us, there was great confusion about the house, I ran out on the little porch and stood looking at the strange scene. The stars were apparently falling to the ground about as thick and fast as flakes of snow in an ordinary snow storm. There was no wind, all was quiet and the sky was clear. The stars were falling slowly around me and appeared to go out as soon as striking the ground. The people were excited and alarmed, some almost went crazy over this phenomenon. Some thought it the approach of the end of the world. Some were praying, others consulting their bibles." He worked with his father on the new farm in Jackson township, helping clear the land and farm it until his manhood. During this time he enjoyed but few of the privileges given boys in these days. In that day they wore home

made clothing and stayed at home. The neighbors were too far apart to do much visiting. Their only pleasures in the way of sport was in hunting wild game in the thick woods, and fishing in the small streams. He delighted in hunting deer and wild turkey, and in this was quite successful and skillful. He used an old flint locked rifle, which he kept for many years after his marriage. Here I briefly relate one or two instances from his experiences in hunting, as he often gave them to us. This was while he was a boy and related to us many years afterwards. In one instance he shot a deer and broke one leg then caught it and it kicked his clothes nearly all off, he and the deer had a long scuffle, and finally he killed it with his knife. In another instance he shot a large buck deer. It ran and he tracked it by the blood for some distance, finally coining upon the buck he found him squatting on the ground in a thick swamp, with his head turned toward his pursuer. He had a large pair of horns, and looked ferocious and appeared to be ready for fight. The hunter at first somewhat frightened, supposing the buck to be lying in disguise, again fired at the deer's head. The big fellow moved not a muscle. Several more shots were fired into his head, finally venturing up, thinking the deer certainly dead by that time, he found seven bullet holes through his head. The deer had been killed by the first shot, through the heart, ran some distance and fell dead.

In his early life it was characteristic of him to accomplish whatever he undertook, he would allow no boy to outwork him. He was rugged and had grit; I have heard him say the day he was fourteen years old he cut and split 200 rails. This was considered a good days work for a man. His advantages for schooling were limited, and his education was self made. School privileges in that newly inhabited wilderness were few and far between. Schools were usually supported by

subscriptions, and a term lasted but a few weeks, was taught in the summer time, when boys were required to stay at home and work. His ambition to acquire an education however, was strong. And at one time when about 21 years of age he made arrangements to take a course of study at Warren, Ind., by paying his way in work. Intending then to take up the study of medicine or law, either of which professions he would, no doubt have filled with success and honor, but his plans were defeated, on account of his fathers meager means, he was needed at home to help provide a livelihood for the family. He gave up going to school at Warren rather than have it said he was too lazy to work. He worked out a great deal, and his wages earned were turned in at home. He helped to clear and fence many of the now largest farms in that neighborhood. Often he would take a contract for clearing several acres and do all the work himself, but generally in those days work was done for day's wages, at about  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cts. a day, and the laborer had often to walk several miles to get to his work. Among the farms he helped clear I mention, Dick McIntyre, John Byall, Dorsey Mason, Judge Graves and the Gregory farms. I have heard him say that there were but few of the old farms in that neighborhood which he had not helped clear, and make. He was ambitious to own land of his own, and after he became of age his time was well employed and every opportunity seized to earn and save money for that purpose. From the earnings of many months hard toil he finally bought and paid for a horse. This horse he rode to the western part of the state, where he traded him, saddle and bridle for 80 acres of land. This tract adjoined his father's place on the north. It was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and had on it numerous swamps and "frog ponds." It was here that he began to lay the foundation of his own home, every rod of this old tract

of land was covered with trees and shrubs. During a great portion of the year much of the land was under water. It was there in that wilderness shut out in view from every vestige of civilization; there were no defined roads, the only inlets and outlets being little winding paths through the woods marked out by blazed trees. It was there with a breast full of pride, ambition and hope, with a heart light, cheerful and happy, with a constitution strong, active and healthy, with all that fills, inspires and crowns a young, brave, courageous man, that he entered the onset of a proud and independent life. The ambitious and industrious young man looks forward; the future is bright and hopeful. The mind and the heart are constantly fixed on what is in store for him. The aspiring young man hastens with anxiety and looks with pride into the future when he shall have built for himself a comfortable little home and have with him those who are near and dear to him. Those happy days are looked to and longed for though dark clouds of discouragement and disappointment often overshadow him. These promising days may never be fully realized in all their hopefulness. Few young men at the beginning have stronger determinations, brighter hopes and fuller confidences of their success than did this one at the onset of life's battle. With him these characteristics were in every step taken to and from his work; they were in every lick struck. To do something and to be something, in short, to make a success in life was first and last in his mind, in his strength and in his heart. Indeed, this was a familiar characteristic throughout his entire life. In the beginning he chopped down trees, rolled logs, grubbed brush, piled and burned it; then built fences around the cleared land and planted it in corn. This he did lone handed, with the help only of the following farming outfit, viz: an axe, hoe, mattock, spade, plough and one horse. This was all, hard work, and necessarily

caused much exposure, yet these were happy days for him. Soon a field of abour four or five acres was cleared, and planted into corn. Many trees were still standing in the field and the stumps almost touched each other, but new ground produced a good crop. Subsequently a neat little hewed log cabin was built and covered with oak clapboards, also a little round log stable for a horse was built, and a corn crib made of poles.

While a boy he was never known to engage in any very wicked or immoral conduct. Boys in those days in that new country were less given to immoral and vicious habits and practices, and of course were surrounded with fewer temptations and opportunities for such than the boys of nowadays, especially those of the cities and more thickly settled communities. He had a positive dislike for anything impure or vile, and while yet a boy he resolutely shunned bad company and places of evil tendency, but rather sought that kind of society that was pure, ennobling and elevating. At the age of about 17, in the fall of 1841, at a Methodist protracted meeting in his father's old log barn, he joined that church. From the very beginning of this, as in all his undertakings, he was an active and earnest worker, as well as a consistent and faithful member. At first the boys sought to ridicule his action in taking this step, but it seemed only to make him grow stronger in his convictions, and the more determined to stick to it through all opposition to the end. In those days the Methodist quarterly conference convened in the fall of the year, and supplied their circuits with preachers. He joined under the latter part of the administration of the Rev. Ockerman, who many still remember. Some three years later on New Year's eve 1844, in his father's house he was converted. It was at a watch-meeting held by the official members of the church. In those days it was common to hold

such meetings in their houses around the fireside. At the time of his conversion, the Rev. Richmond was the preacher in charge, although not present at the time. This was an experience and the beginning of a life, undoubtedly real and lasting. This is not only testified to by witnesses still living, but was fully exemplified throughout his whole life. With him it was steadfast, growing and ripening with experience and age. Partaking daily of the consciousness of its realities, he looked onward and upward, battling with the common enemy of mankind. He marched with untiring tread on and on, facing opposition, disappointment and enemies. Faith grew stronger and brighter, as his eye was ever kept upon Him of whom he talked and in whom he had all trust. He never faltered, never looked backward, never grew tired; but with unshaken confidence in the Master's promises, his way grew brighter and brighter to the very end of his time on earth. From the time of his conversion he began a careful study of the bible, which he earnestly pursued through life, and to him life became a stern reality. On the 17th day of May 1849 he married Melissa Sparr. Their married life will be taken up further on, after the biography of the families of Sparr and Guthrie. Next in order now is:

3. JAMES ALEXANDER.

born near Quincy, Ohio, Aug. 27, 1827. He lived at home with his parents and learned to farm. While a young man he did many a hard day's work on neighboring farms. By his industry and economy he purchased a small tract of land adjoining the old place. Upon this he built a little log cabin and began making his own home. Oct. 15, 1852, he married Mary McKee. They resided at their home farming until about the year 1866, when his parents, feeling that they were getting too old to live alone, made a distribution of their property and by mutual consent the old farm was deeded to James in consideration that he move upon it and

take care of the old folks the remainder of their lives. They have ever since resided upon this place. He served as a soldier in the union army during the last year of the rebellion and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He is a successful farmer and believes in following but one occupation. Both he and his wife have been faithful members of the Methodist church since early in their lives. In all his undertakings he is cautious and considerate, and in most matters is a safe counselor. He is strictly straight forward and conscientious in all of his dealings. With charity for all, he is ever ready to extend a helping hand to those in need. He prefers to deny himself of any luxury in order to provide well for others. He is well-known in his county, and has few if any enemies. His schooling was limited and his education necessarily practical; does his own independent thinking, and he believes in the motto: "Be sure you are right and then go ahead." In politics he has always been a Republican and a strong advocate of temperance. He has held township offices and has helped organize different church societies, Sunday schools etc. (He has many of the characteristics of my own father, and to me he seems in many respects much like him.)

To them have been born four children, viz: Robert Peter, Wm. Edward, Julia Roda and Jennie.

ROBERT PETER was born Jan. 9, 1855, and died Feb. 11, 1867.

WM. EDWARD was born Jan. 23, 1858. He is a graduate of the Indiana state normal school at Terra Haute and has been a successful teacher in that state for a number of years. He is at present principal of the schools at Xenia, Grant county, Ind. Dec. 25, 1882 he married Mary A. Buckles, a school teacher also. To them have been born three children, viz: Howard, died at the age of one and a half years; George, now five years of age, and Ruth, about three years of age. Both

he and his wife belong to the Methodist church and she is prominently identified with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

JULIA RODA was born June 18, 1868. She is a school teacher. Jan. 2, 1892 she married Clement Riggs, a farmer, and they reside near her home.

JENNIE (Sarah Jane) was born Feb. 19, 1871. She is a teacher and has learned the art of oil painting. She resides at home with her parents.

#### 4. NANCY ALEXANDER

was born Dec. 31, 1829. She married Samuel Irvin in the year 1848 or 49. They moved to Blackford county, Ind., where they resided on their farm. They were both members of the Methodist church and highly esteemed for their uprightness and many good traits of character. She died Oct. 7, 1854, and is buried near their old home in Blackford county. To them were born two children, viz: John Benson and Robert Volney.

JOHN BENSON died from the effects of a kick received from a horse, at his grandfather's in Wells county, when a small boy about 4 years of age. He is buried at Asbury Chapel.

ROBERT VOLNEY was born June 20, 1851, in Blackford county. When a young man he went west and spent several years prospecting and mining in Idaho, Oregon and California, where he acquired considerable wealth. In 1882 he returned home. In 1883 he married Flora Veach of Hartford City, Ind. He has since bought his father's old place four miles south of Hartford City, where they now reside and follow farming. They have had four children, three of whom are living. One died in infancy. The names of the living are Moffat H., Perry and Paul.

Samuel Irvin married his second wife and they resided on his farm until Oct. 2, 1880, when he died suddenly of heart disease, and is buried near by. He was an honored and respected citizen wherever known. The

widow is still living.

5.—ROBERT F. ALEXANDER

was born Sept. 16, 1832, near Quincy, Ohio. He was raised on his father's farm, and as he became a young man availed himself of every opportunity to acquire an education. He became a popular and successful school teacher, and taught in Indiana and Ohio. He also engaged in the mercantile business in Ohio, a few years before the war. He was a young man of high and noble aspirations. He was industrious, studious and patriotic, and much admired by all who knew him, for scholarship and many good qualities. His motives in life were pure, his ambition, true patriotism and loyalty for the welfare of his country, may be better understood from some of his own language; so I here copy a few lines from a letter written by him to his brother John, just before the battle at the taking of Vicksburg by Grant. The letter is dated at camp Davis, Miss., March 7, 1863. After describing a 14 days scout he had been on, and speaking of the soldier's Sabbath, he says:

"I often wish I could be with you in Asbury Chapel wherein I with you could worship the Creator of man, rather than be employed in daily labor on that day. Yet it is necessary that we should attend to our duties on the Sabbath in the army. I hope it will not be long till we can lay down our weapons of war and return to our homes."

In another place in the same letter, in speaking of the progress of the war, he says:

"Grant is about to take Vicksburg. It is reported that the rebel armies there are starving. General Grant thinks he can capture the whole army. May he be successful is my wish. The prospect looks brighter now than at any time before. When patriotic soldiers say it must be fought through, depend upon it, it will be done, for the army is becoming more in earnest and it is determined to crush the rebellion, not by accepting an armistice or compromise or any other terms, but that the rebels shall lay down their arms and return to obedience of the laws which regulate and hold this government together. May we never lay down our arms until the South returns to their allegiance. We say no

compromise, no armistice, no separation but the union and old constitution unsevered."

In speaking of the fertility of the soil in the south, he says:

I think the rebels had better be beating their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning hooks."

He left college at Urbanna, Ohio, and enlisted in the army at the first call of President Lincoln for 3 months. He then re-enlisted for three years, and served until the close of the war, and was in the service in all four years and three months. He belonged to Co. E. 5th Ohio Cav. Vol. Three years of the time he was orderly sergeant; just before the close of the war was promoted. He fought in in many hard battles, among them Lookout Mountain and Vicksburg. Through exposure while in the army he contracted hemorrhage, and at one time was sent home, not expected to live. After the war he regained his health. Sept. 13, 1866, he married Sarah Ann Williamson, of Randolph county, Ind., who had been a pupil of his when but a small girl. They moved to eastern Kansas, where he took up a claim in view of the change in climate improving his health. However, the disease grew on him, and Nov. 23, 1871, he died and was buried by the Odd Fellows near Garnett, Kan. He was a tall man with broad high forehead, and a heavy sandy beard. He was kind-hearted, jolly and good natured with all whom he met. His average weight was about 170 pounds. They were members of the Methodist church, and in their lives they both exemplified the true christian character. To them were born two children, Harry T. and Lota.

HARRY T. was born June 8, 1867. He was a school teacher and a telegraph operator, an apt, intelligent and promising young man. He was raised in Randolph county, Ind., by his grandfather, Joel Williamson and always made this place his home. He was educated at Urbanna, Ohio, and Danville, Ind. Jan. 20, 1892, he returned home from Denver, Colo., where he had

been about 4 months, and on Jan. 22, two days after his return was instantly killed by a falling tree in the woods near by his grandfather's. He was buried near by.

LOTA was born Nov. 13, 1869. She has always lived with her mother and stepfather near Deerfield, Randolph county, Ind. She has been educated in Ohio and at Danville, Ind. She is also a school teacher and an accomplished musician. April 23, 1892, she married J. W. Hazlett, of Clinton county, Ind., a school teacher, a graduate of Delaware, Ohio, and a professor of penmanship. They reside at Mulberry, Clinton county, Ind.

The mother re-married William Stick, and they have had one child, Clyde, now about 12 years old. They reside on their farm in Randolph county. She is a faithful, zealous worker in the Methodist church. She is also prominent in the missionary and temperance work. In these organizations and societies she holds high positions and is well known for her ability and influence as an earnest, intelligent and Christian worker.

#### 6. BETTY C. ALEXANDER

was born near Quincy, Ohio, March, 22, 1835. She was raised at home in Wells county, Ind., and Dec. 10, 1857, she married Charles S. Leonard of the same county. They moved first to Delaware county, Ind., then back to Wells county, where they owned a small farm. He served as a soldier in the rebellion; was honorably discharged and is now drawing a pension. After the war they moved to Hartford City, Ind., where they have acquired a comfortable home and still live. He served one term as sheriff of Blackford county, and has filled other positions of trust. His business is that of a lumberman. They are both members of the Methodist church, and she is known as one of the prominent and influential workers in the cause of religion and temperance. She is earnest and resolute in putting forth her efforts to check the progress of vice and intemperance in any of its forms. They have had three children, viz:

Asa E., Robert F. and Mathew M.

ASA E. was born Oct. 7, 1858. He was an educated, studious young man. He was a printer at Tipton, Ind. He died Jan. 18, 1883, and is buried at Hartford City.

ROBERT FRANKLIN was born Sept. 12, 1861. He married Adeline Craw, Oct. 2, 1885. He is a merchant and they reside at Hartford City. They have three children, viz: Lola M., Charles S. and Florence E.

MATHEW W. was born Oct. 27, 1866. He was for many years an invalid. His trouble was that of a weak spine. He was an intelligent, studious young man of excellent morals and habits, and was highly esteemed for his many good qualities. He died April 2, 1890, and is buried at Hartford City.

## SPARR FAMILY.

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Some time in the early part of the 18th century there was born on the river Rhine, in Prussia, a man by the name of Frederick Sparr. All that is now known of him is that he was in this country in Washington's time and was a tory, and had a son named John.

### JOHN SPARR.

John Sparr was born in Germany, in 1748. He emigrated to America and settled in Fayette county, Pa. in 1770. He was an active soldier in the American army of the Revolutionary war from the year 1778 until its close. He fought in the battles of Monmouth Court House, Princeton and others, and was also at the taking of Cornwallis. He was afterwards a Virginian, moving there in 1797. He was a farmer and a strong, rugged and resolute man, and a member of the Methodist church. He died in Lafayette county, Va., in the year 1835, in his 86th year. He was the father of ten children, nine of whom he raised. His wife was Mary Maria Neathawk a native of Pa. She was ten years younger than her husband and was from a wealthy, strong minded family. She was above the average woman in size. She also died in Va. at the age of 86 years. We have the names of only seven of their children; they are: John, Samuel, Isaac, Elizabeth, Polly, Susan and George. (We are not sure that the order is correct except only the oldest and youngest.)

## 1st. JOHN SPARR, Jr.

John Sparr, my grandfather, was born in St. Troy, Pa., Oct. 22, 1784; moved with his parents to Virginia in 1797. He was a farmer, and Jan. 18, 1810, he married Mary Ann Guthrie. Here we leave them until after the biography of his brothers and sisters and the Guthrie family.

## 2nd. SAMUEL SPARR.

Samuel Sparr was born in Pa., in the year 1789. He was a mechanic and a farmer, and served in the war of 1812. He died in Fayette county, Va., in the year 1885, at the advanced age of 96 years. We have learned nothing further of him or his family.

## 3rd. ELIZABETH SPARR.

Elizabeth Sparr, the third child was born in Pa. She married a man by the name of Koontz. She died in Fayette county, W. Va., a few years since, at the advanced age of 96. She was the mother of two children, a son and a daughter. Her husband was taken prisoner by the rebels and died in Libby prison.

## SAMUEL KOONTZ

their son, is still living. He was a scout in the late war and in this way sought revenge for the death of his father.

The daughter is still living also, but we cannot give her name. This is all we know of Elizabeth and her family.

## 4th. ISAAC SPARR.

Isaac Sparr was born probably about the year 1790 or 91, in Pa. He was one of the strongest men in Monroe county, Va. He was 6 ft. and 6 in. tall; was assassinated at the age of 28 years, and is buried in Monroe county, Va.

## 5th. POLLY SPARR.

Polly Sparr, the second daughter, married David Longinaker. They moved to Ind. and raised a large family; nothing further has been learned of them.

## 6th.—SUSANA SPARR.

Susana Sparr, the oldest daughter, married Lewis Forelander, a wealthy tanner. All we know of them is: they raised a large family in Monroe county, Va., where they both died.

## 7th.—GEORGE W. SPARR.

George W. Sparr, the youngest of the ten children of John Sparr, was born in Monroe county, W. Va., Jan. 13, 1803. He married at the age of 20 to Sarah Wickline, the daughter of a wealthy farmer, of the same county. They were married in 1824. He was first a school teacher, then a clerk and a farmer, and was educated to practice law. They moved to Mo. and afterwards to Olney, Ill. At the age of about 40 he joined the M. E. church. Was soon afterwards licensed to preach; he also filled numerous county and township offices in Ill. He was an active and well educated man, a good public speaker and continued to preach often as long as he lived. He was a strong, well preserved man and often said he never knew what pain was. He was quite temperate and took great care of his health. Many of the last years of his life he spent in visiting his children, grandchildren and other relatives. He was always cheerful and humorous, and a good entertainer even in his last years. He had no dread of death. He died at Olney, Ill., Feb. 27, 1891, and is buried there. His wife died September 28, 1881, and is buried at the same place. They raised five children; two sons and three daughters, viz: William W., Isaac N., Julia A., Isabell J. and Eliza M.

## 1. WILLIAM W. SPARR

was born in Monroe county, W. Va., Jan. 26, 1825. He married Eliza Adams, Nov. 5, 1850, in Meags county, Ohio. They had 15 children, viz: Eliza M., Olivia A., George W., Lettie, Martin A., Arthur W., Seward B., Robert N., John C., Sarah M., Mary A. and Luella and Lilly J. (twins) The other two were dead born.

ELIZA M. was born in Meags county, Ohio, March 30, 1851; died March 27, 1857, and is buried at Great Bend cemetery, same county.

OLIVIA A. was born July 10, 1854, at the same place; died July 20, 1855, and is buried at Great Bend cemetery.

GEORGE W. was born at the same place Jan. 23, 1856: single; a mechanic and farmer, and lives at Olney, Ill.

LETTIE, born Sept. 13, 1857, in the same place. Oct. 28, '82, she married Christian Wheeler, a soldier in the late rebellion, and they have had two children: Martin L., died at the age of 7 years; and Robert R. They reside at Olney.

MARTIN A., born in same place March 24, 1859; single, a farmer, and resides at Olney, Ill.

ARTHUR W., born in Meags county Sept. 7, 1860; is a farmer by occupation. He married Clara Wheeler Dec. 23, '84, and they have four children, viz: Charles B., Ernest J., Henry C. and Russell. They reside at Savoy, Richland county, Ill.

SEWARD B., born in Meags county Feb. 9, 1862; died in Richland county March 22, 1865, and is buried at Wesley cemetery, Clay county.

ROBERT N., born in Meags county May 11, 1863; is a farmer by occupation. He married Anna B. Jones in Richland county, April 16, '90. They reside at Olney.

JOHN C., born in Richland county Aug. 27, '65; is by profession a school teacher; single, and lives at Olney.

SARAH M., born in Richland county Oct. 31, 1867; married Merchant Pilchard, a farmer, Dec. 31, 1890. They have one son, Edwin L. Their postoffice address is Farmer City, Ill.

MARY A., born in Richland county April 28, 1871; is single and resides at Olney.

LUELLA M. and LILLY L., twins, were born in Richland county Aug. 27, 1873. Both died at the age of one year and are buried at Wesley cemetery.

The father, William W. Sparr, died May 17, '84, and is buried at Wesley cemetery. His widow still lives on the old home place near Olney.

2.—ISAAC N. SPARR

was born in Fayette county, W. Va., Nov. 9, 1826; married Eliza A. Teter Jan. 2, '55, in Meags Co., Ohio. She died in Richland county, Ill., and is buried in Wesley cemetery. He re-married to Martha Gray April 18, 1869, in Richland county. He is a farmer and their postoffice address is Olney. He had two children, daughters, by his first wife, viz: Elva E. and Sarah.

ELVA E. was born Feb. 26, 1856, in Meags county, Ohio; married Thomas Ogden, Feb. 22, 1876, in Richland county, Ill. She died Dec. 16, 1876; and is buried at Wesley cemetery. He is also dead.

SARAH was born Sept. 30, 1862, in Richland county; married William Banta, in Sept. 1877. They have six children living and one dead. Their postoffice address is Montgomery, Davis county, Ind.

3.—JULIA A. SPARR

was born in Nicholas county, W. Va., June 13, 1828; married Edward M. Roush, Nov. 13, 1850, by whom she had nine children, viz: Sarah A., Almena F., Margaret A., Martin J., Charles M., George H., Mary J., Jessie G. and Edward E.

SARAH A. was born in Meags county, Ohio, Sept. 2, 1851; died Oct. 4, 1854, and buried in the same county.

ALMENA F. was born in Meags county, March 30, '53; married David Adams in 1877, in Richland county, Ill. She died Nov. 2, 1881, and is buried in Clay county. They had no children.

MARGARET A. was born in Meags county, Jan. 10, '55;

died, and is buried in Denver, Colo., Aug. 6, 1885.

MARTIN J. was born in Meags county, Aug. 31, 1857; died in Lawrence county, Ill., Jan. 18, 1880; buried in Clay county.

CHARLES M. was born in Meags county, Nov. 17, '59; married Cassie Hughes in Lawrence county, Ill., in '83; is a mechanic by trade. His postoffice address is 1318 Inslee St., Denver, Colo.

GEORGE H. was born in Meags county, Jan. 7, 1862; died in Richland county, Ill., Aug. 24, 1864, and is buried in Clay county.

MARY J. was born in Meags county, Dec. 26, 1863; married James Shaffer, Oct. 28, '81; died May 10, '84, and buried at Olney, Ill. They had one child, also dead.

JESSIE G. was born in Richland county, April 23, '66; died July 21, '66; buried in Clay county.

EDWARD E. was born Nov. 19, '69; single; is a clerk; and his postoffice address is Grand Island, Neb.

#### 4. ISABELL J. SPARR

was born in Monroe county, West Va., May 28, 1832; married Benjamin Sayers Nov. 6, 1850; and they have four children living and one dead, viz: Sarah E., Ella A., George W., Margaret L. and Jacob Y.

SARAH E., born in Meags Co., Ohio, April 8, 1852; is single and lives with her parents near Olney, Ill.

ELLA A., born in Meags county Sept. 25, 1853; married Jacob West Feb. 9, 1871, in Richland Co., Ill., and they have six children living and two dead, viz: Benjamin J., Laura B., Ida M., George L., (dead) Charles A., Annie M., Russell O. and Bessie B. (twins) Bessie B. dead. Their children were all born in Richland county, and range in ages from 20 to 3 years. Parents and children reside at Olney, Ill.

GEORGE W., born July 4, 1856, in Meags county; married Kate Roscoe Aug. 1, '86. They live in Olney and have one child, Omer E.

MARGARET L., born Sept. 6, 1862, in Richland coun-

ty, and died in infancy.

JACOB Y., born July 5, 1867, in Richland county; is a school teacher by profession. His postoffice is Olney.

5.—ELIZA M. SPARR

was born in Monroe county, W. Va., Nov. 1, 1834; married Jacob Y. Adams, a farmer, July 27, 1857. They have had five children, two sons and three daughters, viz: Ida F., Martin W., Cora E., George E. and Sarah A.V. Their postoffice address is Portland, Meigs Co. O.

IDA F. was born April 22, 1860, in Richland Co., Ill. She married Arthur C. Price, a farmer, Dec. 18, 1883, in Meigs county, Ohio, and they have one child, Jacob. Their postoffice address is Portland, Ohio.

MARTIN W., born Jan 28, 1863; died Aug. 25, 1866, and is buried at Great Bend cemetery, Meigs county.

CORA E. was born Nov. 16, 1865, in Richland county; married William L. Bramble, a clerk, April 12, 1887, and they have one child, Raymond D.

GEORGE E. was born Sept. 16, 1871, in Meigs county; is single and a farmer. His postoffice address is Portland, Ohio.

SARAH A.V. was born Feb. 23, 1874, in Meigs county; single; postoffice address is Portland, Ohio.

## GUTHRIE FAMILY.

### WILLIAM GUTHRIE.

William Guthrie was born in Ireland, in 1752. He left one of the ports of London, and emigrated to America in 1775. He was one of the pilgrims who came to America in search of a country where he could exercise the rights of religious liberty. He lived first in Maryland but soon removed to Virginia; he was a soldier in the revolutionary war from the year 1780, until its close; was also a prominent minister in the Methodist church. He married first a Miss Elders from whom he had three children, girls. She died and he afterwards married a Miss Austin, from a wealthy family. He is a weaver by trade; was an active, energetic and useful man of his day; he died in the year 1825. From his second wife they raised five children, all girls, all of whom grew up, married, and raised families of their own.

The oldest one married a man by the name of Stone. They moved west and raised a large family. This is all the information we have of her and her family.

### 2d- NELLIE GUTHRIE.

Nellie, the second child of William Guthrie, married Philip Ballard, a wheelwright. They had seven children, four boys and three girls, viz: Gordon, William, Jane, Mandy, Robertson, Austin and Julia. Philip Ballard was an active, intelligent and a good business man. He was small in stature but very plucky and quite successful, and lived to be quite old.

## 1. GORDON BALLARD,

their oldest child, married Elizabeth Willets. They had three children, two girls and one boy, viz: Elmira, Caroline and Warren.

ELMIRA married a man by the name of Robertson, colonel in the late war. She died at the close of the war.

CAROLINE married Joseph Eaton. They have one child, and reside at Knightstown, Ind.

WARREN married a Miss Alexander, and they have one child; also reside at Knightstown. Gordon, his father, lives with him. He is quite old but still active. He, like his father, is small in stature, but strong and possesses good business qualifications; has been a man of nerve and pluck.

## 2. WILLIAM BALLARD

married Elizabeth Allen, of Virginia, and they had one child, a girl. She married, and died at the age of 20 at Ogden, Ind. The mother is also dead. William is a horticulturist and lives near Blue River, Ind.

## 3. JANE BALLARD

married Joshua Hall, a carpenter; and died in 1837. They had two children. One died young, and HATTIE married and moved west.

## 4. MANDY BALLARD

married Robert Ross; have a large family and live in Hancock county, Ind.

## 5. ROBERTSON S. BALLARD

married Sarah Griffith. They moved to Mercer, Ill. He is a farmer; they raised a family and he is still living, is about 75 years of age. His wife is dead.

## 6. AUSTIN BALLARD

married and had one child, CHARLES, who lives at Greensburg, Ind., and is a carriage trimmer. Austin has been a dentist; is now old and resides at Indianapolis, Ind. He is a Methodist.

## 7. JULIA BALLARD

married a Mr. Hunt, a dentist, in Indianapolis, and he

died some years ago. They had two children, George and Mollie.

MOLLIE died single.

GEORGE married and lives in Arkansas; has a family and is a railroad operator.

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3rd.—JANE GUTHRIE.

Jane Guthrie married Robertson Shelton in Virginia, in the year 1816. He was a wealthy farmer, and they belonged to the Methodist church. In an early day they moved to Indiana and settled on Blue river. She died Oct. 11, 1859, at the age of 69 years. They raised four children, three boys and one girl, viz: William Harrison, Sylvester R., James Madison and Dorcas.

1.—WILLIAM HARRISON SHELTON  
married Martha Ogg. They raised thirteen children. They first lived at Nightstown, Ind., and afterwards moved to Abington, Iowa. This is all we have learned.

2.—SYLVESTER R. SHELTON  
married Hannah Dragoo, at Nightstown, Ind., Sept. 2, 1840. They moved to Hartford City, Ind., in 1842; had nine children, eight of whom they raised. Sylvester Shelton lived in Hartford City 47 years; settling there among the very earliest inhabitants of the place. He was known far and near throughout that entire country as an honorable, upright, law-abiding and God fearing man, and had few enemies, if any. He was engaged in the mercantile business for many years, was post master, two or three terms, and held other official positions in Hartford City. He was an honorable and faithful member of the Methodist church, and was useful in it all these years. He died Jan. 22, 1889, and is buried there. His wife still lives in the old place; she has always been known as an earnest, industrious woman and one of the leaders in all good works in Hartford City. She is charitable, motherly and a good adviser, and has done much in her time toward helping the poor and

needy; she belongs to the Methodist church. The names of their children are: Jane M., Thomas B., Dillie, Martin M., Julia A., Harietta E., Nancy J., John Mc. and William S.

JANE MARIA died young.

THOMAS BENTON was a soldier in the late war, and died single at the age of 22.

DILLIE married Ezra Stall, he is a banker and they have always resided in Hartford City. She is a prominent worker in the Temperance cause, and they are both useful members of the Methodist church. They have three children, viz: Bert, Lizzie and Charles. Bert is a clerk in the bank, and they all three reside at home.

MARTIN M. married a Miss Harrison; they live in Los Angeles Cal. He is a harness maker. They have two children living, Jessie and Arthur, and one dead.

JULIA ANN married Gabriel Johnson. They lived in Ogden, Ill. She died in the year 1870 and left two children, one of whom died young, the other, Maud, married Job Winslow. They live at Fairmount, Ind., and have two children, Hattie and Leslie.

HATTIE ELLEN was a member of the Methodist church. She died unmarried April 14, 1880, and was buried at Hartford City.

NANCY JANE married Dr. Spaulding. They live in Bluffton, Ind. He is a prominent practicing physician of that city. They have six children, viz: Thadie, Carl, Jessie, Ethel, Ruth and Ralph.

JOHN MCINTYRE married and moved to the west and is in the mining business. Nothing further is known of him.

WILLIAM SYLVESTER is a lawyer, practicing at Anderson, Ind; is married and has one child, Earl.

3. JAMES MADISON SHELTON married Elizabeth Cooper. They had five children, two boys and three girls, viz; Otto, Julia, Olive, Marshall and Leander.

OLLO married Rev. Witmer, a Campbellite preacher, and they live in Fayette county, Ind.

JULIA married Mr. Duddleson, and they live in Henry county, Ind.

OLIVE, single and lives with her mother in Roysville, Henry county.

MARSHALL is a lawyer, unmarried, and is practicing at Nightstown, Ind.

LEANDER is a dentist, is married and lives at Cape Gurridon, Mo.

#### 4. — DORCAS SHELTON

was born Jan. 9, 1805, in Giles county, Va. She was never married but made her home for many years with Madison Moody in Delaware Co., Ind., where she died at the good old age of 87. She was an active woman through her whole life except a few of her last years. She died in Jan. 1882, and is buried in Delaware county, near Selma.

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#### 4th. — PATSIE (MARTHA) GUTHRIE.

Patsie Guthrie married Martin Moody in Va., and they moved to Kentucky, where both died about the year 1844. They had six children. Of them we have learned nothing further.

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#### 5th. — ELIZABETH GUTHRIE.

Elizabeth Guthrie married John Moody in the year 1806 in Giles county, Va. He was first married in 1803 to Martha Banks, by whom he had one child, Austin; was a farmer, and was for 30 years a class leader in the Methodist church. He and his second wife were among the pioneers in Delaware county, Ind., and were both highly respected and well known far and near. Both died and were buried there, he Oct. 23, 1855, at the age of 75, and she Nov. 30, 1868, at the age of 81. They had twelve children, viz: William, John, Martin, Martha, George, Samuel, James, Robert, Lewis, Mary, Mad-

ison and Elizabeth.

1.—WILLIAM MOODY

was born in Va., June 14, 1807. He married Elizabeth Brown Jan. 20, 1845. She was born March 3, 1818. They first lived in Wabash county, Ind., and now reside at Fredonia, Wilson Co., Kan. She is a member of the Methodist church. He is a farmer, and was a captain in the late war. He is now 85 years old and still writes an intelligent and legible letter. This biography of his own family was written by himself, as given below. To them have been born eight children, viz: Martin L., William H., Bennie F., Ballard P., John W., James B., Emma J. and Madison M.

MARTIN L. was born Oct. 16, 1845, in Wabash Co., Ind., married Maggie J. Dean June 13, 1874. He is a school teacher by profession, and they belong to the Methodist church. They reside at Center Point, Howard county, Ark.

WILLIAM H. was born Sept. 9, 1847, in Wabash Co., Ind.; married Anna E. Sharp Feb. 18, 1875; is a farmer and they belong to the Methodist church. They reside at Somerset, same county.

BENNIE F. was born July 4, 1849, in Wabash county; died May 6, 1875, and is buried at Somerset.

BALLARD P. was born Feb. 27, 1851; is a farmer and a Methodist, and lives in British America.

JOHN W. was born Feb. 9, 1853; is a farmer and lives at Fredonia, Kansas.

JAMES B. was born Nov. 6, 1856; is a farmer and lives in Kansas.

EMMA J. was born March 22, 1858; she married William Fuson, April 3, 1878; is a dressmaker and they belong to the Baptist church. They reside at Fredonia.

MADISON M. was born April 9, 1860; married Mary J. Bromfield Aug. '80; is a farmer. They belong to the Methodist church and live in Kansas. We have not the names of William Moody's grandchildren.

## 2. JOHN MOODY

was born Oct. 24, 1809; died unmarried in the year 1855 and is buried near Selma, Delaware Co., Ind.

## 3. MARTIN MOODY

was born Oct. 11, 1811; married Mary Raynold in 1836; and they moved to Delaware county and followed farming. They had four children, viz: James H., Sarah E., Margaret and John M., all married.

JAMES H. married Sarah Reynolds and they have one child, John; are farmers, and live at Cherry Vale, Kan.

SARAH E. married John Gibson, and they have five children: Martin, (married and has two children) Mary E., Margaret, Valentine and Samuel.

MARGARET married John Fry in Howard county, Ind. They have four children, all girls and all married.

JOHN M. married Mary Wiseman; is a farmer, and they have three children: Clyde, (dead) Elmer and May.

## 4. MARTHA MOODY

was born Nov. 12, 1813; married Evan T. Babb, a farmer, in Delaware Co. They have had five children, viz: Samuel G., Cynthia A., Milton L., Elmira J. and John M.

SAMUEL G. married Annie Byers and they have three children, viz: Lucy L., Martha and Bennie; is a blacksmith, and lives at Marion, Ind.

CYNTHIA A. married Newton J. Flemming, and they have three children, viz: Lilly, Catharine and Claud. They reside in Delaware county, and are farmers.

MILTON L. married Mollie Lowe. They live in Muncie, and he is a collector.

ELMIRA J. married John Carmichael. They live in Colorado and are mining; have three children, viz: Carrington, William and Ollie.

JOHN M. married Emily D. Hupp. They live near Selma, Delaware county, and are farming; have had nine children, six of whom are living. The names of the living are: Charles V., Harry E., Mary A., Nellie F., Della and Fred.

## 5.—GEORGE MOODY

was born Oct. 5, 1814; married Cynthia Hurley in 1839, in Grant county, Ind. They raised nine children, viz: Amanda J., Flavius J., Snow R., George W., John M., Andrew, Columbus, Mary and Alice.

AMANDA J. married a Mr. Sweet, a farmer. They live in Montgomery county, Iowa, and have one child.

FLAVIUS J. is married and has a family. They reside at Ogden, Utah.

SNOW RICHARDSON is married and has a family; is a farmer and lives in Delta Co., Colo.

GEORGE W. is unmarried; is a tombstone cutter and lives in Delta, Colo.

JOHN M. is married; has a family; is a farmer and lives in Texas.

ANDREW is unmarried, lives at Omaha, Neb., and follows railroading.

COLUMBUS is also single, lives at Omaha, Neb. and is a railroader.

MARY is married, has a family, and lives in Montgomery county, Iowa.

ALICE married Rev. Swaber, a Methodist traveling minister. They have no children and reside at Monte Christe, Colo.

## 6.—SAMUEL MOODY

was born Nov. 12, 1818; was a nurseryman by trade; was never married, and died in '43; is buried in Delaware Co.

## 7. JAMES MOODY

was born Dec. 23, 1820; has never married; is a farmer and has been postmaster and filled several county and township offices. He resides in Delaware Co., and is an active, spry "old bachelor."

## 8.—ROBERT MOODY

was born April 22, 1822; died Oct. 1843; buried in Delaware county.

## 9.—LEWIS MOODY

was born March 11, 1824; died single, at the age of 20;

is also buried in Delaware Co.

10. MARY MOODY

was born Nov. 21, 1826. She never married and died in Delaware county, at the age of 44.

11. MADISON M. MOODY

was born Nov. 1, 1828; married Sarah Baiard Sept. 20, 1865. They have two children, boys, both living: Milton G. and Robert A., both young men, single, living at home with their parents on the old John Moody farm in Delaware county. Madison is a farmer, and has been state secretary of the grange, has also filled several county offices, and was for a number of years Supt. of the poor farm of that county. Both he and his wife are active and useful members of the Methodist church.

12. ELIZABETH MOODY

was born Oct. 8, 1830; she married Evan T. Babb, (his first wife having died.) They reside in Delaware Co., are farmers and belong to the Baptist church. They have had six children, four living and two dead, viz: Lou M., Frank B., Charles W. and William H.

Lou M. married Florence Wheeler. He died in Virginia in 1879.

Frank B. married Addie Smith. They live at Munice, Ind., and have 4 children, three girls and one boy.

CHARLES W. is married and has two children; is a blacksmith and resides at Marion, Grant Co., Ind.

WILLIAM HENRY married Emma Covault. They have seven children, viz: Loettie, Ethel, Bird, Ruby, Ralph, Madison and Homer.

In regard to the family of William Guthrie we are not certain as to the order of the ages of his children. It is probable that Jane was the oldest of the last set and the one who married a Mr. Stone was one of the first set. There were either two or three of this set, and we have no record of them. His second\* wife (whose maiden name was Austin) it is said was a wid-

ow, by the name of Banks when he married her. Of the families of their five girls we have given above the best sketch we can of all except Mary Ann, my grandmother, and we now give hers.

6th.—MARY ANN GUTHRIE.

Mary Ann Guthrie was born Oct. 14, 1790, in Montgomery county, Va. She married John Sparr (as already stated) Jan. 18, 1810.

JOHN AND MARY ANN SPARR.

John and Mary Ann Sparr, (my grandparents) were married in Virginia. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. He afterwards served as sheriff of Greenbrier county, Va., for a number of years, and also held other important official positions. In the year 1824 or 25 they moved from Va. to Ind. and settled in Rush Co. He there was a contractor and largely interested in the national road and other important work of that period. In 1833 he traveled on horseback from Ind. through Arkansas to Texas, then a province of Mexico, occupying a year in exploring these wilderness regions. In 1836 they removed to Delaware Co., Ind., where they acquired a good farm and followed farming. Both were useful and faithful members of the Methodist church. He died of pneumonia from exposure, March 24, 1843, at the age of 58 years and 5 months. He was a resolute man of vigor and strength, of medium size, 5 ft. 8 in. tall. He was an honored, useful and highly respected citizen of his county. His wife was a woman of good education and a strong mind, and wielded a good motherly influence as long as she lived. She was for about 30 years a widow and lived in Delaware Co. with her oldest child, Eveline, and after a long life of an earnest, practical Christian she died Oct. 13, 1872, lacking one day of being 82 years of age. Both are buried in the cemetery adjoining their old place in Del-

aware county. The following obituary is copied from the Western Christian Advocate of October, 1872:

"Mary Ann, relict of John Sparr, near Muncie, Delaware Co., Ind., Oct. 13, in her eighty-second year. She was a native of Virginia; had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for sixty-seven years. She died in full hope of that blissful immortality of which she had learned in the precious bible, which was her constant companion and comfort for so many long years."

To them were born eleven children, viz: Eveline, Silas, John, James, William, Samuel, Maria, Milton, Melissa, Andrew J. and Ripley W.

#### 1. EVELINE SPARR

was born in Monroe Co., Va., March 13, 1811. She lived with her parents until over 30 years of age, when she married Elijah Goff, of Delaware Co. They have always lived on a farm near Selma, of that county; have never had any children. They have, however, raised and educated several children, and one adopted child, John M. Babb, who now has his own family and resides near them. Both Elijah and Eveline have been since early life members of the Methodist church. Both have filled a useful sphere in life, are well known and highly esteemed far and near. Elijah has been prominent in several organizations in his county, and still takes an active part in any movement for the good of the public. They are living comfortably and pleasantly in their old days, and still possess much vigor and strength for their ages. Their postoffice is Selma.

#### 2. SILAS A. SPARR

was born in Monroe Co., Va., March 30, 1813; moved with his parents to Ind. in 1824 or 25, and Oct. 13, '37, married Susan Thomas, of Delaware Co., Ind. She was born in Miami county, Ohio, Sept. 10, 1820. They resided in Delaware Co. on a farm until 1854, when they moved to Ainsworth, Washington Co., Ia., where they also followed farming. He was a man much esteemed for his many good qualities and his kindness as a husband. He was in many ways quite useful in public life.

They were both members of the Methodist church. He died at Ainsworth, April 27, 1870, and is buried in the Ainsworth cemetery. His widow afterwards married Stephen O. Martin of Delaware county. He died Sept. 16, 1877. She again married John Haines April 11, '82. He died Dec. 21, 1887. She is now a widow still living at Ainsworth with a grandchild. To Silas and Susan Sparr were born four children, in Delaware county, Ind., viz: Mary, Margaret, Maria and Elizabeth.

- MARY was born March 30, 1839; married Abraham Beanblossom, of Washington Co., Iowa, June 20, 1858. She was the mother of five children, viz: Calvin R., Margaret M., Rosa E., William S. and Gertrude.

Calvin R. was born April 8, 1859; married Harriet A. Skipton, Dec. 8, 1880. They have had three children, viz: Mary E., Nettie P. and Charles H. Their postoffice address is Washington, Iowa.

Margaret M. was born Feb. 17, 1861; married A. E. Kephart, March 3, 1881. They have had two children, viz: Earl Roscoe and Roy. They also reside at Washington, Iowa.

Rosa E. was born March 26, 1863; married T. J. Lewis, Feb. 27, 1883. They have three children, viz: Dolly A., Daisy G. and Jessie L. Their postoffice address is Ainsworth, Iowa.

William S. was born Jan. 15, 1872; died Dec. 28, '78.

Gertrude E. was born May 10, 1877; died July 10, '77.

MARGARET was born July 26, 1840; married Samuel M. Lewis, a stock dealer in Washington Co., Iowa, Nov. 4, 1856. He was born on Dec. 3, 1834. To them have been born ten children, viz: Susan E., (dead) Julia E., Silas E., (dead) Flora B., (dead) Lillian M., Cora M., Minnie V., Mary L., (dead) Bertha H. and Samuel R. Their births range from 1858 to 1884.

Julia E., married N. R. Smith, July 4, 1880; died July 27, 1888. They had two children, Maggie N. and Ollie E. These two children are orphans. The oldest has

a home with her grandmother in Kansas City; and the other, with her great grandmother at Ainsworth, Iowa.

The five living children of Margaret Lewis live with their parents; their postoffice address is 644 Tenny Ave., Kansas City. The mother and three daughters Lillian, Cora and Minnie belong to the Baptist church, and Julia before her death belonged to the Christians.

MARIA was born Sept. 25, 1842; married William E. Dawson, in Washington county, Iowa, June 24, 1861. He was born in Virginia, Oct. 25, 1843. He is a farmer and a miller; was a soldier in the late war and they reside at Aurora Springs, Miller county, Mo. They belong to the U. B. church. They have had five children, viz: Loran E., Leander E., Mettie G., Charles H. and Maude L.

Loran E. married Ida Adcock, in Johnson Co., Mo., Oct. 18, 1891. They live at Aurora Springs. The other four children reside with their parents.

ELIZABETH J. was born Feb. 20, 1845. Jan. 1, 1867, she married J. W. Stickley. He was born in West Virginia, May 22, 1838; is an undertaker and a dealer in furniture. Their home is at Hudson, Iowa. They are Methodists and have four children, viz: Warren A., Alice M., J. Carl and Harry V. Their births are from Feb. 1, 1869 to Oct. 2, '89 and are all living with their parents.

### 3.—JOHN SPARR JR.

was born in Cabel County, Va., Feb. 28, 1815; married Sarah Quick, in Delaware county, Ind., March 5, 1840; died in that county, Oct. 25, 1843, and is buried in the Sparr cemetery with his father and mother. He left three children, viz: Milton, Monroe and Elijah. (The last died young.)

MILTON married Caroline East, and moved to Sparr Station, Fla. He was engaged in the fruit business and was a prosperous and enterprising man in Fla. He also owned a drug store and a saw mill. He died there in 1888. His widow still lives at Ocalla, that state. They

had two children, boys, viz: William and Carl E., both live with their mother in Florida. William owns a boat and most of his time is spent on the water. He is an industrious, self made young man, intelligent and prosperous.

MONROE married Nancy J. Moore, at Selma, Ind. He went west in 1879 and has not since been heard of. His wife died at Selma. They had two children, viz: Gestina and Carl Edger. The girl is married and the boy is a contractor. They both reside near Selma.

4. JAMES SPARR

married Rachel Alexander and his biography has already been written.

5.—WILLIAM SPARR

was born in Kanawha county, Va., April 11, 1819; he died Nov. 24, 1819.

6.—SAMUEL SPARR

was born in Kanawha county, Va., Nov. 16, 1820; died from choking, Nov. 24, 1822.

7.—MARIA SPARR

was born in Kanawha county, Va., Dec. 8, 1822; died unmarried April 8, 1845, and is also buried in the Sparr cemetery.

8.—MILTON SPARR

was born in 1824; married Sarah Boots, in Delaware county; was a druggist, and died April 5, 1852, about one year after his marriage. She died soon after, without issue. They are both buried in the Sparr cemetery.

9.—MELISSA SPARR

my mother, was born in Rush Co., Ind.; moved with her parents to Delaware Co. in 1836, where she lived and grew up to womanhood. She was raised on a farm and in that day had but little opportunity for schooling. Before she was 20 she was converted and joined the Methodist church. Since that time she has remained constantly one of the church's earnest believers and

followers, faithfully working and worshipping in it. At the age of 23 she married John Alexander as heretofore stated. To their lives the second part of the book is devoted.

10. ANDREW JACKSON SPARR

was born in Rush county, Ind., in 1829; moved with his parents to Delaware county in 1836, and was raised there on his father's farm. In 1851 he married Matilda R. Neil, in Delaware county. He followed farming and trading, and in the early days of Kansas he moved to Lawrence and engaged in railroad contracting. About the year 1880 he moved to Colorado and was somewhat interested in mining. His first wife died at Lawrence, Kan., June 26, 1866, and is buried there. He re-married to Susan (Davis) Harbor, of Delaware county, Ind., in Feb. '81, and they settled at Delta, Colo., and followed farming. Both were members of the Methodist church, as was also his first wife. He was one of the principal founders and supporters of the now prosperous church at Delta. He died there from a sudden attack of pneumonia, Dec. 27, 1891, and was buried there. (The body has been removed to Lawrence, Kan.) His widow still lives at Delta. To him and his first wife were born 4 children, one boy and three girls. The boy died young. The girls are Emma, Karen and Eva.

EMMA married first Wm. Pittsford. They lived at Anderson, Ind. Her second husband's name is Stenley. He is in business at Anderson; have no children.

KAREN married Isaac East, of Delaware Co. They moved to Ocala, Florida, where they still reside. He is a well-to-do carpenter. They have had five children, viz: Vivian, (dead) Samuel, Emma Lee, Robert and Clifford.

EVA died a young woman, and is buried at Sparr cemetery, Delaware county.

11.—RIPLEY W. SPARR

was born in Rush county, Ind., July 6, 1832; was raised

on his father's farm in Delaware county, and was educated as a school teacher. He gave up school teaching and in 1857 moved to Franklin county, Kan., where he resided on a claim and farmed until the spring of 1859, when he removed to Lawrence Kan., and engaged in the business of manufacturing brick, which business he followed for eight years. In 1867 he engaged in railroad contracting. He helped construct the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston R.R., the Mo. River, Ft. Scott & Gulf, the Texas Pacific and other railroads. He also at the same time carried on a large business in Texas cattle, running an extensive ranch in Kansas; was also interested in the mercantile business in Lawrence in company with J.H. Gladhart until 1877. Since this date he has visited southwestern Colorado several times and there opened up some valuable mines. He was for a number of years a member of the city council of Lawrence, served as justice of the peace in Iowa, and held numerous other important offices elected by the people. He has been particularly prominent and useful in the promotion of schools; is also a member of many years standing in the lodges of Masonry and Odd Fellowship; is now a member of a commission of seven from Kansas to represent that state at the Columbian exposition at Chicago in 1893. In politics he is a democrat. He is a strong advocate of temperance and reform; is a life long member of the Methodist church; is an officer in the church and has contributed largely to her support, particularly in Lawrence. He is now president of the Douglas County bank, and recently has built one of the finest and most commodious residences in Lawrence. April 16, 1862, he was married to Mary Critchfield, of Leavenworth, Kansas. She was an educated lady of rare accomplishments and was an exemplary member of the Methodist church at Lawrence. She was born in Fulton Co., Ill., Jan. 25, 1840, and died at Lawrence, April 19, '77. To them was

born one child, CHARLES W., Aug. 5, 1864. He married Alice Miller, Nov. 12, 1886, in Wisconsin. They have one child, Helen May, two years of age. He is a merchant and they reside in Lawrence. Ripley married his second wife, Mrs. B. W. Milton, in St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 20, 1883. She is an educated, cultured woman, quite accomplished in the arts of music and painting. She is prominent among the zealous workers in the temperance cause and in the Methodist church at Lawrence. They reside in their attractive home on Tennessee St.



In concluding the biographies of so many families, it is but proper to say, as indicated in the beginning, that the aim has been to omit none, and the reason some families are so fully represented while others but partially and some not at all, is because some responded more promptly and fully than others. The greatest efforts have been put forth in trying to obtain a full record of each family, and we regret very much that some are so meagerly represented. It must be said that in most cases this is caused by their own negligence in failing to furnish statistics and sketches after so many inquiries; while others of course could not be found. The majority of the families of our ancestors, however, have furnished us their complete records with some occasional interesting sketches. The biographies and sketches are brief, but they have been diligently collected and carefully written. When you have critically read them all over you will, we believe, find them all correct. Some occasional errors may have possibly crept in; but the facts as recorded here have been taken from the mouths and from the written statements of individual representatives of the respective families. In many cases different members of the same family have been consulted, and their statements compared in

order to avoid errors and to arrive at precise correctness. Then, before compiling the matter into a book, it has been overhauled, submitted and re-submitted for examination and correction.

These biographies and sketches will live long after we are dead and gone, and they will doubtless prove of great value and interest to those connected with any of the families included. They will, therefore, we trust, be kept as records, and well preserved.



"HONOR THY  
**FATHER**



*John Alexander*

BORN APRIL 23, 1825;  
DIED APRIL 4, 1886.

He steeled the path of honor to pursue,  
Whom danger could not daunt nor pain subdue.

AND  
MOTHER."



*Mrs Jno Alexander*

BORN JULY 15, 1827.

She flowers strewed along the way;  
In Heaven we'll meet in a brighter day.



## SECOND PART.

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### THE FAMILY OF JOHN ALEXANDER, WITH LETTERS AND MEMORIALS Upon His Life and Character.

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#### JOHN AND MELISSA (SPARR) ALEXANDER.

The foregoing part of this little book (as already noticed) is a biography of the descendants of James W. Alexander, Asahel Wilkinson, John Sparr and William Guthrie, the four grandfathers of my father and mother, whose births and early lives up to the time of their marriage have also been included in the same. We are now about to take up their lives together, beginning with their marriage and devoting the balance of the book to them. In doing this my own recollections and observations, especially in the life of my father, will be supplemented by copying and quoting not only from many of his own letters and writings and language, but also by letters and tributes from the hands and mouths of many others who knew him best and longest, and who are better prepared to give us, in many respects, a better understanding of his real character and conduct. But little of my own language will be used, and while I must in many ways necessarily connect myself with some of the sketches, yet I have no part in the

honor, virtue and purity of the life of which I am about to write. It stands out alone an ever living monument of character, pointing out to all who but see it, the path that leads to success in the world, and to the final home of the just.

Before beginning with their marriage, I copy first from a letter dated at Stewart, Iowa, written by John Patton, a cousin, upon early recollections at Quincy and the start for Indiana. In this letter to me he says:

"Many times I have thought of Uncle Robert Alexander, as he was familiarly called. Many times I have thought of your father, John Alexander, my cousin; and how vividly I remember our boyish freaks and rambles through the forest and over the hills in the vicinity of Quincy. My memory carries me back very distinctly to the day when I last saw your father. It was when Uncle Robert started for the then far west, Indiana. Then it was a serious undertaking to attempt such a journey. I remember the team of horses and their names: "Old Dick" and "Pony." Your father took a colt that Uncle Robert had given him. The colt was "Snips." I think they took another wagon, drawn by two yoke of cattle. The wagons were covered, and in regular "prairie schooner" style they moved out, presenting to my mind an idea of solemnity. I remember how my heart sank within me as I looked after them and thought of the hands I had grasped perhaps for the last time. I remember the little present that Uncle Robert gave me. It was a silver quarter of a dollar. I wonder if that quarter is in existence to-day. Wouldn't I prize that little piece of money if I had it again?

My dear cousin, what a mine of thought your letter has unearthed! Brushing the dust from memories' pictures and pages, I fully realize the thought of the poet:

"How painfully pleasing the fond recollections  
Of youthful connections  
And innocent joy!"

The book of biography you are preparing will be very acceptable to all members of the Patton family, and I assure you it will be appreciated by me. I shall anxiously await its appearance."

Upon recollections of his early life, his traits of character, works etc., I next copy a letter written soon after his death by his brother, my uncle James Alexander, of Wells county, Ind.

"I shall endeavor to write a few items in reference to the early traits and character of your father. In doing so I shall necessarily have to connect myself with some of them.

Your father was born in Champaign county, Ohio, April 23, 1825; moved with his parents to Elkhart county, Ind., in May, 1837, and to Wells county Feb. 1838. The country was new, only six families in the township. He was deprived of school privileges for several years. He got most of his education at home by the light of an old-fashioned grease lamp. He labored hard to clear up the farm. When not employed in the clearing he loved to be in the woods with his gun. In this way he soon learned to be a good woodsman and was successful in his hunts, though sometimes merely escaped with his life; he was very resolute and feared no danger. One of his early traits was to accomplish whatever he undertook to do. This followed him all through his life. He never became discouraged like some other boys, but looked ahead, believing there was better times for him in the future. He was always inclined to be industrious; would sometimes say when he was a man he would make his own living.

I will now relate a few incidents of his early life to show what a determined will he had. Our horses were turned to the woods. He and I had them to hunt and fetch home about once a day. One of them was very gentle; the other one was a three years old colt. We were in the habit of both riding the gentle one home, but on one occasion he said he was going to ride the colt. He made a bridle out of hickory bark and put it on the colt, got on, and away went the colt through the woods. It made a quick turn and threw him against a tree. When I got to him he was lying on the ground, apparently dead, not breathing any. I was terribly alarmed and thought he was killed. I rolled him over; he began to catch his breath and soon came to. He was not seriously hurt, and I wanted him to ride the gentle horse home; but now he had undertaken to ride the colt, and so he did. Another time father went to look for some hogs that had strayed away four or five miles from home. While looking for the hogs he killed two deer. The next morning we took the two horses and accompanied him back to get the deer. He skinned and cut them up and put the hides and meat in two sacks, put them on the horses and we started through the woods home, while father went in the opposite direction to look for the hogs. We had gone perhaps half a mile when John's horse ran between two saplings and he and the sack both rolled off. We tried to get it on the horse again, but were not able. We finally dragged the sack to a large log, and got it on top of the log. Our plan was: I was to hold the

horse close to the log and he was to get on the log and raise the sack and pitch it on the horse; but just as he got it up in his arms he lost his balance and fell backwards off the log, and the sack on top of him. He hollowed to me and said his back was broke. I got to him, soon pulled the sack off of him, and he was so badly hurt he could not stand on his feet for some time. I knew that father was out of hearing and there was no use to hollow for help. I coaxed at him to get on the horse and leave the sack and try to get home, but no, that sack of venison must be taken along. After waiting some time, he got so he helped get the sack on the log, and he held the horse and I succeeded in getting it on the horse. We then made our way through the woods home, although he was in great misery, sometimes thought he would fall off the horse. I will now give a few items in reference to some of the privations incident to our early life in the woods of Ind. As I have stated before, we came here in an early day, consequently underwent many privations and hardships. Our parents were poor and could not provide for the comforts of their children as they would like to have done. What few clothes we had when we came here soon wore out in the brush. There was but little in reach to buy, and we had but little to buy with. Under these circumstances we raised flax and manufactured it, and made most of our wearing apparel of it. This did well for warm weather but in the winter it was not so good. Your father and I would make our own moccasins for winter wear. These were made of deer skins or some other hides, for there was no leather to be had in reach of us. We generally wore two pair of pants in winter, a straw hat of our own make, a wamus made of lindsay and moccasins on our feet. This was our outfit for winter. With this kind of apparel we would work hard all day long and when night came mend our moccasins when they had given way through wear and tear of the day.

I shall now say something in reference to his religious life. He was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church at about seventeen years of age. He was in this very determined. He took his stand for the religion he professed and the church of his choice. Although it was thought by some a disgrace to be a Methodist, yet he had taken the name of Christ and determined to live for him; although sneered at by some this seemed to drive him closer to his Savior. He loved the church and was always ready to defend its doctrines to the best of his ability. About this time there was a Sunday school organized at father's house. This seemed to be the very thing for him. He at once took a deep interest in the school. Some thought it a bad institution, and even

some religious people thought it would do more harm than good, but he thought differently, stood up for the cause, worked faithfully to sustain it and would study his lesson well through the week, and when Sunday came he would ask his teacher to explain the meaning of any passage he did not understand. In after years he was useful in the church, serving as class leader, steward and Sunday school Supt. for a number of years. He always felt at home in the Sunday school. If there was any go to it he made it interesting. I have now given you some of the traits that marked the life and disposition of your father. They are worthy of our examples. May we follow his good examples and when we have finished our labor on earth, meet him in Heaven, is the wish of your Uncle.

JAMES ALEXANDER."

John Alexander and Melissa Sparr were married at her mother's residence in Delaware Co., Ind., by the Rev. O. V. Lemon, a Methodist minister, on the 17th day of May, 1849, and on the Saturday following the wedding, in a company of about twelve, on horseback, started for the infair at his father's in Wells Co. This was a distance of about 30 miles. The roads were new and the streams and low places not bridged, so they had swamps and water as well as mud to go through, and a part of the distance the road was merely a narrow path through the thick woods. Two weeks later they moved into their own little hewed log cabin which he had already prepared for them, as heretofore mentioned. But as yet there was nothing in it. Here in the wilderness, with this little start, they began clearing out and making a home. With very little help, but willing hands, they toiled early and late and lived plain for fifteen years in this log cabin. It had a log kitchen built on to it, making two rooms in all. It was chinked and then daubed inside and out with mud, covered with clapboards, and with a little puncheon porch in front with a clapboard roof, it made a very comfortable little home, winter and summer. In one week after their marriage they returned to Delaware county to move their little possessions to their own home, as it was cus-

tomary in those days for the bride to furnish the household goods and a cow. They moved in a wagon, and were one day and a part of the night in getting through. In less than three weeks they were keeping house in the little log cabin. I have heard my father say that the first thing that went into the new cabin was an old bible received from his father, which had come from his grandfather, James W. Alexander. (That old bible is now in possession of the writer.) At the time of their moving they had there a garden spot and about ten acres of land cleared. In about one week after they began keeping house Rev. O. V. Lemon visited them, and after observing the scanty but cosy home, he said: "I am glad you are just as poor as you are, for if you had any less you could not get along at all, and if you had more you might become proud." In order to give a clearer idea of this beginning, I give my mother's own language in describing it, as she has written it. It is as follows:

"I will try to give you a few items of our commencing in the world. I first met your father at my own home in Delaware Co. when your uncle Jim Sparr and your aunt Rachel were married. Your father came to the infair at mother's and there is where we first met, in October 1846, and in May 1849 we were married the 17th day, and I think about three weeks after that we moved to our own home in the log cabin. We moved in a wagon. Your uncle, A. J. Sparr, drove the wagon and your father and myself rode on horseback and drove the cow, "Old Cherry." I got sick and stopped at Shelttons in Hartford City, and your father and uncle went on with the things to our home. Your father came back for me the next day. I got to your grandfather's and stayed there until Friday, then they put a straw bed on a sled and took me to our home. By Sunday I was able to go to church. It was quarterly meeting, and your father got a buggy and took me. I gave my letter in to the church. Father O. V. Lemon was there and he went home with us for dinner. He made me a present of a copy of the Methodist discipline. This is what he wrote in it:

'They who live by rule live to purpose in any enterprise; but those who live not by rule live not at all.'

I have the book but the letters are so dim I can hardly read

them. Well, I had a cow, and your grandfather gave your father "old Fan," the old gray mare, and he gave me a China pig. That was the beginning of our hogs. Our furniture, I had a cabinet workman to make before I was married. It consisted of one bedstead, one chest, a stand and set of chairs. I have them all yet but the chairs. Our table your father made himself. I have the frame of it yet for a table for my house plants. I got a set of dishes and some pots to cook over the fire, in Smithfield, a little town near my home. The box I got the dishes in, your father made a cradle out of, and you children were all rocked in it except Morton. Our first apple trees in our orchard were set out in the fall of 1850, about six weeks or two months after Rachel was born. I wrapped her up and carried her in one arm and held the trees with the other hand, while your father set them out. The trees were raised on my father's farm in Delaware county. There was a nursery there run by the Moody boys. What I have written may be interesting to you when I am not there to tell you these things."

Thus they began life with small riches, but good health and bright and happy dispositions. During the following winter he cut the logs and built a hewed log barn himself, with a little hired help, except the "raising." In that day it was customary for the neighbors to gather in on a certain day when notified and help raise log buildings. This was done gratuitously on the part of the neighbors in order to help each other along. It was always looked upon rather a happy day, and a big dinner was served. This was the case at the raising of this barn.

Both were very closely attached to the M. E. church, to the support of which they always contributed a portion of their small earnings. They attended services for about 8 years in a log church, then were of the small number who organized and built up the little church society near by, known as Asbury Chapel. The frame building still stands in which he served as trustee and classleader as long as they lived in that county. In this work he was as in everything else he undertook, very determined and thorough. His motto was: "Whatever the hands find to do do it with the might." He was

always very strict against the use of profane language, and would often reprove those who used it in his hearing. He would never permit any unnecessary work to be done on the Sabbath if he could possibly prevent it. He was never known to shave himself on Sunday. In all his work he would say: "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." He used to think it was his duty to enter the ministry, but later years said less about it. He organized a Sunday school at Asbury Chapel in an early day and was for nearly fifteen years its superintendent. In this he was studious, industrious and punctual. He would prepare his work well and nothing but sickness would prevent him from being in attendance and always on time. He was a great admirer and advocate of the Sunday school from its earliest introduction into that country. Often he served as Supt., chorister and teacher at the same time. He had one song which he especially loved and often sang and taught to the school. I have it as written by his own hand and it is this:

"ROBERT RAIKES Song Ballad.

In olden times, when boys were wild,  
On England's soil there rose a child,  
His name was Robert, true and mild,  
So loving, loving and good.

Then away, away, our cause is growing stronger,  
Away to the Sunday school;  
Then away, away, we can't wait any longer,  
Away to the Sunday school.

As Robert Raikes walked out one day  
To see if children were at play,  
Some boys were seen on Sabbath day  
A-playing, playing; ah, mean.

Cho. Then away, etc.

In 1781 across the sea in Gloucester town  
This glorious Sabbath school began;  
It is comming, coming along.

Cho.—Then away, etc."

He was a great lover of music and was a good singer. He used to study music and even wrote some from the old note system. He would practice his favorite pieces and thought so much of them as to often write them down, both the words and music, sometimes making slight changes to suit his own thoughts and feelings. I here copy two more little songs which were preserved by him from among the old ones.

"How oft I am weary,  
How often sad an dreary;  
What then, but this could cheer me  
I soon shall rest in Heaven,  
What then of tribulation?  
What then of sore temptation?  
Be this my consolation—  
I soon shall rest in Heaven.

Then welcome death and mourning;  
I see the light approaching;  
Joy cometh in the morning—  
The day of rest in heaven.

When this poor body lies slumbering in the tomb,  
And soft winds gently sigh o'er its quiet home,  
And strange, sweet flowers in beauty o'er it bloom—  
I soon shall rest in Heaven.

Then shall my happy spirit  
Say of my Savior's merit  
Who brought me to inherit  
The rest of saints in Heaven.

O brother, shall I meet you?  
O sister, shall I greet you?  
O sinner, shall I see you  
Among the blest in Heaven?"



"Forget me not, in accents mild,  
My mother says, beloved child,  
Forget me not when far away,  
Amid a thoughtless world you stray,  
Forget me not when fools would win  
Your footsteps to the paths of sin.

Forget me not when urged to wrong  
By passions and temptations strong;  
Forget me not when pleasure's snare  
Would keep you from the house of prayer;  
Forget me not in feeble age,  
But let me then your thoughts engage.  
And think, my child, how fondly I  
Watched o'er your helpless infancy.  
Forget me not when death shall close  
These eyelids in their last repose,  
And murmuring breezes softly wave  
The grass upon thy mother's grave."

In these early days he served in a number of district and township offices. In this his business was always carefully transacted, and the records of his acts well preserved. Here is an order given by him on his father, while both were in office, he district supervisor and his father, township trustee.

"May 23, 1861.

MR. ROBERT ALEXANDER:— Please pay to the bearer one dollar and forty cents for work done in District No. 3.

JOHN ALEXANDER, Supervisor."

I next give a portion of a correspondence he had in these early times with John Bell, of Quincy, Ohio. I do this because they were such intimate friends and so closely attached to each other, that in this correspondence much of his life, character and traits may be seen. So I copy a number of his letters which I have in my possession. They are old and some of them lengthy but am sure will be interesting to many who will read them. Before copying the letters, however, I will say a few words about John Bell and his family so that the reader will better understand this correspondence and their relations to each other. John Bell, of Quincy, O., was an old time neighbor and friend of my grandfather, Robert Alexander's family, while they lived in Quincy. Their friendship continued after grandfathers' moved to Ind., and lasted as long as they both lived. It was in this way that the friendship grew up between

him and my father, and out of which came the correspondence mentioned. Bell was an honored citizen and a noble man. In a letter recently received from Mrs. Anna V. Dorman, his oldest daughter, now living at Quincy, in speaking of her father and his family and my father and his relatives, she says:

"The earliest recollections I have of your father, or rather your grandfather's family was when I was a little child in my fourth year. The friendship which existed then between the families of Alexander and Bell remained true and unbroken to the end of their lives, and is to-day living green in the memories of their children. My father, John Bell, was born in Berkley county, Va., 1798; died in Quincy, Ohio, Nov. 16, 1882. He was a tanner by trade, served as justice of the peace for 24 years, as township assessor 29 years in succession, from his 51st to his 80th year, and could have had the office longer, but was too old to do so much riding and counting. For 18 years of the 29 he had no opponent. For three years before his death his health was better than usual. On Tuesday morning before his death on Thursday, he sat in the room by the fire singing, while I was in the kitchen getting breakfast. He was singing that old time hymn:

'And let this feeble body fail,  
And let it faint or die.'

He finished the last verse just as breakfast was ready.

'Give joy or grief, give ease or pain,  
Take life or friends away,  
But let me find them all again,  
In that eternal day.'

This was the last I ever heard him sing. The next Thursday about 11 o'clock, he dropped dead in the stable yard, and was buried the following Sabbath by the I. O. O. F. and followed to his grave by the largest funeral procession ever seen in Quincy.

There are now living of my father's family: my mother who will be 87 years old May 1, 1892; myself 58 and youngest brother, Thomas, 46 years of age. Mother bids me present to you her kindest regards for your welfare, and hopes you will live as good a man as your father and grandfather. Your little book will be highly appreciated by the Bell family. Wishing you many years of prosperity and happiness and trusting you will in all your undertakings seek the approval of your Heavenly Father.

I remain your friend,

Quincy, Ohio.

ANNA V. DORMAN.

P. S.—In looking through my father's old letters, I have found six, written by your father to him. The first was written just one week after the first gun was fired at Ft. Sumpter. I send these six letters to you. Many of your father's relations still live in and near Quincy. At least four-fifths of them on both sides were, and are still, generous, clever, upright, honorable, law-abiding, God-fearing people. What more can I say?

A. V. D.

After this little explanation of John Bell and family, I now first give in full the oldest letter of the six she sent me—word for word—written by my father to John Bell.

"WELLS CO., IND., April 19, 1861.

RESPECTED FRIENDS:

I take up my pen this evening in order to comply with my promise and your request. I received your letter of April 8th and was glad to hear from you. And now Uncle John, I intend to give you a full history of all that I think will interest you, if my pen and paper holds out.

In the first place I would say something in regard to our trade with the McDaniels family, I am well pleased with all you have done, and have no doubt but what you will do all right. If Mr. Calahan still refuses to sign the bond I want you to hold on to it, with those that have signed it, and that much of the land will be safe any how, and do what you think best with his share of the money. I want the land and have made some arrangements already to have work done on it. I leave all in your hands, do just what you think best to secure the land. You will be apt to have a good deal of trouble with them and I will pledge you my word that I will compensate you for all your trouble.

It is nearly 11 o'clock and I will have to quit for to-night, so good night.

Saturday 20th. Well Uncle John, to commence this evening, I must tell you that I have been very hard at work to-day, for the time of year is here that every farmer should stretch his muscle, if he gets his crop in, in time. I inquired of Pap when I came home concerning the old man, Marchel. He says you sent him the account, but he never got any thing from the old man. He says that he is dead, and thinks the chance to get any thing will be a slim one unless the boys will pay it. I will find out this summer if I can, whether they will pay it or not, and when you come out next fall, some of us will go down with you if you wish to go to see them.

Now I must tell you about my journey home. You know I left Quincy at 3 o'clock on Tuesday, and I landed safe in Muncie, about 6 o'clock, stayed all night with my brother-in-law (J. Sparr) started bright and early for home. He took a horse and set me some four miles on my way, and then I took to my scrapers and you better think I made snow and mud fly for the next 12 miles. Then came to another brother-in-law, took dinner with him and he took his horse and set me four miles further on my way. Then I tried again what virtue there was in my shanks, came on 8 or 9 miles farther and met Uncle Ed. with his horse. 'Well,' said he, 'John, you look as if you was about as tired as folks generally get, so you shall ride.' On I mounted and home we came. Stopped at Pap's, left all you both sent to them and told them all I had time to, and home I came, a little after dark. I called at the gate to stay all night and my wife knew my voice. In I came, found all well and doing well. Wasn't I fortunate?

Sunday, 21st. Well, Uncle John and Aunt Martha, I must tell you something about the old folks. Their health is good at present. They received your presents with many words of gratitude. I did not stay to hear your letter read that night, but brother Robert said they had a glorious time over it. He has been shooting your pistol some. The old man is just as full of his fun as he was 30 years ago. When you come out you need not expect to find him some surly, dried-up crackling. He has but one tooth in his head, but he has got his tongue yet, and if you can wear all the Irish brogue off of it, your own old tongue will be pretty well spent. We were all gathered together the other day at one of my neighbors, raising a big round log barn. Hands were scarce and the logs were heavy, so in the afternoon some of them hollowed out: 'There comes Uncle Robert; it will go up now.' Up come the old man with a hand spike on his shoulder. He said: 'Come boys, I will show you how we used to do up business when I was a boy.' And at it we went in a race, until the building was complete. He said: 'That is the way we used to do it.' If you had been there with your big pistol, watching out to shoot preachers, you would never have snapped at him for one. Pap and Mother requested me to come up to their house before I finished my letter and mark down a few thoughts for them; so I will do so on a separate sheet and enclose it with your letter, as this sheet will not hold more than I wish to communicate to you.

The rumor that Ft. Sumpter is taken has created quite an excitement in our country. The democrats say: 'Look what you black republicans have done; you may fight it out.' So I tell them to stand off and hold our hats and we will do the fighting.

Now concerning those deers that are stalking about my neighborhood. Just how many head there are to each acre of the woods, I cannot tell; but the way they have pastured my wheat field this winter, I will be safe in saying that there will be more deers within two miles of my place next fall than you, Jacob, Martin, Criss and all the assistance we can lend you will kill, if you stay 3 months.

Now we want you all to come right here and camp with us while you hunt, as there is plenty of good hunting ground all around us, and we have plenty to eat, such as it is, and good enough what there is of it and you and all that come with you shall be welcome to a share of all that our houses and barns will afford. We will have plenty of corn and hay for your horses, when we are not using them to haul in deer.

When you get to Bluffton inquire of John Studebaker, he has a large store there, and he will put you on the right road. We live south west of Bluffton, about 20 miles.

Uncle Ed. is here yet and intends to stay until he sees whether they need him in the South. My wife says you shall have your cup of coffee, corn dodgers and butter. As to the chat, you will get plenty of that. A while before you come, write to us if you please, and let us know about what time you will be here. I will have to quit for the want of room, and I think I hear you say, amen, for I have certainly tried your patience. Please excuse my bad writing. Give our love and respects to all inquiring friends.

I remain your sincere friend,

JOHN ALEXANDER.

P. S. This leaves us all enjoying good health and hope it will find you all enjoying the same. You will please excuse me for not writing a few lines for Pap and mother as I promised. I have been so busy in my clearing, I have not had time."

In John Bell's reply to the above letter I quote a small sketch in which he says, referring to Grandfather and Grandmother. It is this:

"Uncle Bob and aunt Polly; I have always remembered their more than neighborly kindness toward me while we were neighbors, and a separation of twenty-four years has not dimmed in the least one particle of their kindness in my memory. 'Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his.' So may my end be like Aunt Polly's and Uncle Bob's. I wish to be kindly remembered to them. You and family likewise will accept my best wishes for your health and welfare."

Here is another to John Bell which we copy in part:

"WELLS CO., June 10, 1862.

RESPECTED FRIENDS:

After a long silence I again take up the pen in order to write a few thoughts. In the first place I would say that we all (with the exception of brother Robert) enjoy good health. He has just landed on a sick furlough from the army. He was in the 5th Ohio Cav., was at the battle of Pittsburg landing, and took sick a few days after. He is mending fast, and thinks he will be able to join his Regt. in a few days."

Then he speaks of the land trade, says the money will all be ready five or six days before it is due, etc.

"Now something about that visit you paid us last fall. I would advise you to not offer any excuse at all, but redeem your credit by paying us a visit next fall. We looked for you from the first of October till the last of November, but did not see any of you. We did not know but what you had all gone to war. Pap has still got your pistol, takes a good care of it, says he intends to keep it until you come to see him. Now we want you to come next fall and take your hunt, and bring as many with you as you wish, and we will have a general jollification time of it. Deer is more plenty this spring than they have been for several years. We have plenty of secess, so if you cannot find game enough to kill you can just go to hanging them. They call themselves conservative democrats.

Now Uncle John, we would like to hear from you once more and whether you intend to come to see us next fall, and if so, what time. We all send our love and respects to you all.

JOHN ALEXANDER."

The next letter we give in full, just as written by him. It was written from Muncie.

"MUNCIE, Sept. 2, 1862.

Well, Uncle John, I have just landed in Muncie, and pretty tired, I assure you. If I do not write much more you will excuse me I know, for I am so nervous since I have been sick that I can hardly write at all. But you told me to make no apologies for bad writing so I will make none. Last evening when I finished my first sheet my wife picked it up and commenced reading and laughing. She said: 'Well, I think Bell will think you need to apologize for this letter.' I have a great deal that I would like to write to you which I shall have to omit for the present. When I have a more favorable opportunity I will write you a big letter in answer to your first, which I should have answered before now. We all want you to come and see us this fall, whether you come

to hunt or not, and bring who you please with you. We will treat them just as we do yourself. My wife says if you come you shall have your corn dodgers and the very best she can fix up. I can keep you in chat at least one week myself.

Now to-morrow morning I will send the amount of money you need to pay those heirs who have signed the deed, and when you pay them I want you, if you please, to write to me and let me know just how the matter is going, and whether you think they will have any chance to defraud me or give me trouble. I feel very anxious to have the matter settled. I will come up to everything that I agreed to do, and will expect them to do the same. Callihan and Fuston will have to do the best they can with their shares, if they will not come to the terms proposed, for I will not pay them one dollar more for their shares than I pay the others. If you think I had better get the deed recorded before you get the signatures of these two boys that are in the army, you will please send it to me by mail. Do just as you think best and I will be satisfied.

There is quite an excitement here in town to-night about the war.

I remain your friend,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

I next copy nearly the whole of one of Bell's letters which I happen to have in my possession. Coming from an intelligent correspondent, it will serve to give the reader some idea of the events of that day. This letter is dated Feb. 2, 1865, in it he says:

"And now John I will proceed to answer your last letters as systematically as I can. In your former letter you inquired after my son William, and just four days before I received that letter I received an account of his death, which took place in Fort Gaines on the 25th of August last. He dragged along after his Regt. until he was entirely worn out. He became delirious, was put in a hospital in the fort above mentioned, and continued delirious for 2 or 3 days, and in that condition calmly yielded up his life. He is the seventh child we have lost, but they all died at home but Wm. And the very thought of his dying so far from home no father, no mother to smooth his pillow or close his eyes, is too agonizing to think of. The reason why I was afraid to open your letter: I expected nothing else but to hear of the death of one or the other, or perhaps both of your parents. I was agreeably surprised when I found my fears were premature. I have spent many happy hours at your father's house, and have been flatter-

ing myself that I would again enjoy the pleasure of their society for a short time before they pass from the shore of time. I am now collecting the delinquent tax, also what is called commutation fines; that is \$4.00 which each man who is entitled to do military duty, must join himself to some military company or pay yearly \$4.

You suggest if I cannot come in the fall, I might in the spring. I have for sixteen years in succession, assessed our township, and very probably will be elected next spring again. I seldom have any opposition. The time for assessment begins the middle of April and ends on the third Monday in May; after that time I will have more leisure than any other time of the year and I may possibly, some time in June pay you a visit. I only hope that nothing may come in the way to prevent me from so doing. Now go to your kind parents and tell them that nothing would give me more pleasure than to spend a short time under their hospitable and friendly roof.

I suppose you raised a good crop of corn last season. If you did there will be no difficulty about the dodgers. My compliments to your wife and family. When you have time write, and if you think you can talk a streak, so can I, and when we meet we will have a streaky time.

Yours &c.,  
JOHN BELL."

The next letter written by my father in this correspondence is as follows. I give it in full just as written:

"WELLS CO., IND., Aug. 28, 1867.

Well my dear old friend, I once more take my pen to write a few thoughts in reply to the numerous pages I have had the privilege of perusing from under your own kind hand. All of which I read with pleasure, and felt assured that it was from a friend indeed.

On the next evening after you left here I received the letter that you had written (prior to your visiting us) containing 12 pages, all of which I read to my family. They gathered around me as if they had not heard from you for a year. I only wish that I had received that letter in time to have answered it before you started. I next received a kind and welcome present from you, of three of your county papers, for which I thank you. On one of the papers I found written by your own hand: "No time to write yet." I also found several other places marked for me to read, all of which I read. Before we received the papers, Pap became very uneasy about you, for fear something had happened to you. But when the papers came, all was right, for there was

your well known hand writing. Now Uncle John I must say right here that I am sorry that I cannot compensate you by sending you my county papers in return for those I received. My subscription has run out and I have not renewed. Next I received another kind and welcome letter from you, addressing yourself to the whole connection of the Alexanders in these parts. This letter bears date of July 14, and contains 6 large pages. It first contains an apology for not writing sooner. Next it gives a brief history of your travels homeward, and next you give us all our meat in due season—Uncle Bob, for the rascally way he took to beat you shooting; Mrs. Mary for making you sick, and Mrs. Melissa for not knowing what kind of medicine to administer to make you well. Now Aunt Martha, I think that it is no more than justice that you should know what caused Uncle John's sickness while sojourning among us. It will doubtless surprise you when I tell you that it was caused by strong drink. He accuses the poor woman for having made him sick, while it was through no fault of her own at all, but caused by his own craving appetite for strong drink. He also rails out on my poor innocent wife for not having known that mush and milk was the only remedy he used after having taken too much strong drink. Now Aunt Martha, I have one request to make of you, and that is: if Uncle John is in the habit of using too much strong drink you will please notify me of the facts in the case, and I will immediately write out a temperance lecture and send to him, and perhaps it may have the desired effect; if not, I will write a second one, and even a third one before I will give him up. Now Uncle John, you will please read the above note to Aunt Martha and let her use her own judgment in the matter.

I was going to tell you what I done with your letter, I mean the last one I received. I read it to my family, and then sent it the rounds; to my father first, and I believe I can safely say that it was a welcome visitor to all. You talk of paying us a visit this fall and hunting some. All I have to say is come on, and you will be quite welcome. We will try to make your visit a pleasant one to you. The way you propose to settle the 11 cents you say is due me is the very way I want to settle it, to eat it out in corn dodgers this fall.

The next Sunday after you left here, as we went to Sunday school, we struck out to hunt the tree that you had cut your name on, and found it. I have shown it to some of my neighbors since and taken the liberty to give them a brief history of you. I did not tell them that you drank too much beer at my brother's.

I just took the notion this evening that I would go to town to-

morrow, and sat right down and commenced writing to you. I had not time to go to see Pap or any of the rest to see what they had to say to you. James and I were talking about writing to you a few days ago. We both said we would write to you soon. So I think you may look for a letter from him soon. Pap can say what he has to say in his letter.

You will please write to us and let us know about the time you will be out if you come this fall. We are all in the enjoyment of reasonable health. We all send our love and respects to you and family.

Yours truly,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

The following letter is also given in full:

"WELLS CO., April 19, 1870.

Well, my kind old friend, I have no doubt but what you have come to the conclusion that my sickness has proved fatal, or I surely would have answered your epistle of Dec. 26, 1869, long before this time; for your letter was almost as long as Paul's epistle to first Corinthians. But had it been as long again it would have been read with the same anxiety. Well, I think I hear you say right here, (to yourself) if you still survive what excuse under the sun can you offer for your long delay in answering my letter? As honesty is the best policy, I will try to be honest in telling you the cause of my long delay. It was nothing but sheer neglect on my part, for which I feel ashamed. Hope you will forgive me for this time, and I will try to do better for time to come. In perusing your last letter I find that we have been abusing one another at a wonderful rate. I have been calling you an old toper, drunkard, and accusing you of everything that was mean and contemptible, while you have been retaliating in just as strong language. If some fellow that knew nothing about either of us could gather up our letters for the last two or three years and read them, he would come to the conclusion at once that we must be greatly at loggerheads with each other. But he would miss it bad.

Now my dear old friend, there are many things in your last letter that I could reply to with the greatest of pleasure, and come off as clear as a sunbeam; then read your reply with equally as much pleasure. But as you propose to strike accounts, and as you are coming out in a short time if you possibly can, to redeem your promise in paying us that long promised visit, I will hereby consent to strike accounts with you until you come. Then be it understood that we will have a thorough investigation of the whole matter. I will see whether I cannot sustain a good char-

acter, then we will see whether I cannot sustain all the charges that I ever brought against you. One small request, however, I have to make of you, that is that you will grant me the privilege of selecting the jury to decide the matter, and that no appeal shall be taken to a higher court; but that the decision shall be final. Now sir, this small request I think hard as your heart is, you can hardly have the conscience to deny me of in your next letter. If my request can be granted you will please notify me so that I can have the jury selected and all in readiness, so there will be no delay when you come. The witnesses on both sides are all here, and the matter can be settled in a few days after you get here. Then you know we can enjoy each other's society during your stay much better, knowing all is settled.

I will stop my nonsense until you come, anyhow hoping that the time is close at hand when I may again take you by the hand and give you a hearty welcome into my house. You will please write and let us know how you are all getting along, and also about what time you think you will be out here. I think we shall all know you this time, and will be happy to see you once more in this world; though there will be one missing when you come, my dear mother, but we mourn not as those who have no hope, for we expect to meet her again where sorrows never come.

It was very sickly here last fall and nearly all winter. My father's and my own health has been very poor all winter, though it is much better this spring. Uncle Ed. was quite poorly all winter, but is also much better. Rachel Sparr and family were well the last we heard. They still live in Muncie. Charles Leonard and family are well. They live in Hartford. Perry Alexander lives in Bluffton, the county seat of Wells Co. Marcellus Alexander lives near Uncle Ed's on a farm. He is married. There is but two of Uncle Ed's children living at home, the two youngest. William Furdue, son-in-law of Uncle Ed's, lives one mile west of me on a farm. My brother, Robert Alexander, lives in New Madison Dark Co. Ohio. He has been lying very low with consumption, though he is better at this writing, and the probability is that he will recover. If he does he intends to move to Kansas, as his physician says that nothing but a change of climate will ever restore him to health. He has bought land in the southern part of Kansas.

Well now Uncle John, I will have to wind up my few broken remarks, as it is getting late and my pen and ink is very poor. I hope the time is not far distant when we can converse with each other by medium of the tongue, face to face, instead of the pen, which will be far more agreeable to me as I am a poor scribe all.

Write soon; do not do as I have done; and let us know about the time you think you will be out here. Please tell us in your next letter if Aunt Margery Herriman is still living there and how she is getting along. Give our love and respects to your family and all inquiring friends, retaining a good share for yourself.

We remain ever your friends.

JOHN AND MELISSA ALEXANDER."

The next one is the last of his letters to John Bell that I have. It is also copied in full, and is as follows:

June 19, 1870.

Well my dear old friend, I have just (a few days ago) received your letter, dated May 30, 1870, and was happy to hear from you. Was much diverted in reading your letter. What diverted me most was to see with what vigor you renewed the attack, as soon as you got me to accept your proposals for a compromise. You remind me of a boy I once got into a quarrel with. Every time that we met we quarreled and called each other hard names. Finally we concluded to settle the matter by trying which was the best man. I did not like the challenge much, but knew that it would be cowardly not to accept it: so at it we went. And I being a little the stoutest got him down and commenced thumping him in the face and wherever I could hit him, so that he hollowed 'quit! quit!' but I did not quit. So he hollowed out 'let me go, let me go' but I did not let him go. And he commenced to cry and said if I would let him go and quit, he would. I accepted the offer, thinking I had him perfectly quieted. But no sooner had I let him up than he commenced calling me the same hard names he had before, and my Irish at that time being easy inflamed, I went into him again, and that time I made his nose bleed furiously, until a man who was close by came and took me off. So he started for home without calling me any more names. Now my dear old friend just as soon as you got me to accept your offer to compromise the difficulty existing between us, you pitched in on me just like the boy did when I let him up, affirming that you could sustain the charges you allege against me before a just court. But the court that I proposed to have you before would be placing you in equally as bad a condition as the man, who in traveling to Jerusalem, fell among thieves and was stripped of all he had, and badly bruised. And you almost call me one of the thieves; at least my jury would pass by on one side and I on the other as did the Priest and the Levite. But you say that there is a good Samaritan here who would soon pour in your wounds and bruises, the oil and wine, (mush and milk.) Well that good Sa-

maritan is still here, and when you come we will get her to prepare some of her medicine, and we will get around it with tins and spoons and see whether we cannot settle the difficulty among ourselves. Well we are truly glad to hear you say that you are coming to see us this summer. We shall all be happy to see you. You say you think you will not come until after harvest. Well, I think your visit will be more agreeable to yourself and us at that time than any other, as that will be a leisure time with farmers. They are very busy now and will be until after harvest. You say that I said nothing about Jimmy and Mary in my last. Well, perhaps I did not. They are well and doing well. This leaves us all in tolerable good health. Tell Aunt Margery Father talks of coming in to see her and the rest of you. Give our love to all. Hope to meet you soon. Yours truly,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

I have now given above, copies of all the letters I have been able to find written by him to Bell. There were a great many more written that have been lost or destroyed. From these we have before us, the reader will learn and retain much of the disposition, and the characteristics of John Alexander, both in a business and in a social sense. His humor, his wit, his interest and concern in his family, his patriotism, hospitality and prompt business manner are all shown in these letters. In reading them one who knew him will almost imagine he is sitting by his side talking with him. They are interesting to me, and will be to many others, and may well be kept by us as keepsakes. This was an extensive correspondence and the letters of John Bell were also lengthy, intelligent and interesting. Some of them have been preserved, but we have copied in this only a part of two.

During the incidents and excitements of the late war, no man in his neighborhood was more loyal, more outspoken and enthusiastic for the success of the union, than was John Alexander. From the beginning of the war he was anxious to join the army, and in the winter of '64 made his arrangements to go and fight for the union, leaving a wife and six small children behind.

After making all necessary provisions as far as possible for their comfort and protection about the home, he bid them all good-bye and started, but got no farther than Warsaw, Ind., where, after passing an examination was rejected on the account of an injured blood vessel from boyhood in his left leg. He returned home and maintained his patriotism there in defense of the many families left fatherless. At one time for a year he had the charge and care of nine families. He was a staunch republican and an enthusiastic temperance advocate and worker. He was foremost in all questions of reform, and boldly and vigorously advocated such movements in his neighborhood. After the war, and with the beginning of the crusades on the saloons, he was especially zealous in the cause of temperance. Below is given some short extracts from some of his speeches and writings, (which I have found.) in Wells Co., about the year 1870, which show his thought and zeal on the subject. On one occasion at a Murphy meeting he said:

"The time has come in the history of this great nation of ours that it is not so necessary to talk about the horrible crimes that have been committed, and the millions that have suffered from the influence of intoxicating beverages, as it is to uphold those who have recently united with the great temperance reform. America has awakened to a sense of duty, and is now doubting and hoping, anxiously hoping that intemperance will be swept from the land. Some are even hoping that the movement now being taken will prove a failure. There are those even in our enlightened land that are ignorant enough to believe that all that has been done has been a failure. We will look for a moment.

Thirty years ago there sprang up a little band of temperance men, and called themselves the Washingtonians. They were persecuted, egged, mobbed, and called everything but gentlemen. They then became a secret organization and called themselves the Sons of Temperance, and suffered less persecution from the advocates of alcohol. Then rose up the so much despised Crusaders, who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and lifted their feminine voices to God to assist them in putting down this monster evil. Who will dare to say that God has

not answered their prayers? Have there not multiplied thousands of strong armed men laid to their helping hand within the last few months?

Murphies, you are here to-night managing this meeting, not as a religious body, but as an organization pledging yourselves to use your influence to put down intemperance in our midst. To you we look, for you we pray, that God will help you in this mighty work of reform."

On another occasion he wrote the following near the same time, which was published in the county papers: "For publication if you see proper.

From Jackson Township.

The people out here in Wells Co. are jubilant over the farmers' call for reform. We expect to respond heartily to the call from Wells Co. in sending our delegates to meet in mass convention at Indianapolis on the 10th of June next, for the purpose of casting in their mites in the erection of a platform upon which all the honest, toiling sons of Ind. may step and rest their wearied limbs. Keep it before the people that the success of this great and grand movement depends upon the entire exclusion of any wire working party managers or self seeking demagogue. The politician has but one prayer. That is: 'O Lord help me to get over the fence in time when the parties shift.'"

The following is also taken from one of his public talks in that county:

"There is no evil that lives so broad in devastation as that of intemperance; no evil that preys on the innocent and defenceless part of the community so much; no evil so contaminating in its influence. Drunkenness is a crime. The word of God settles this. Anyone putting the bottle to his neighbor's lips is accursed. I would love to kindle your prejudice against the accursed stuff, if it is not already kindled, and if so, to strengthen it. All you have to do is to think of the wrecks on either side of the stream of death, of the suicides, the insanity, of the poverty, the destruction, of the little children at the breasts of their weeping and despairing mothers, asking for bread, while the father is struggling with imaginary serpents, produced by the devilish thing. I am no philosopher; I am no orator; I am a plain, blunt man, but I have seen enough to know that if the cause be removed the effect will also be destroyed."

During the war he began making preparations for a frame house just in front of the log cabin. In this how-

ever completion was delayed for two or three years on account of the war. All of the timber for the frame of the building he worked out himself. Cut, hewed and split it out of the woods. This included the sills, sleepers, rafters, joice, etc. The shingles he made of oak, shaved with an old fashioned drawing knife. The lumber and finishing material for the house was made from logs he cut and hauled to the saw mill. The lumber was seasoned after he took it home. The carpenter work was first left to Bowen Tharp, a carpenter and a U. B. preacher. He was compelled to give up the contract after beginning the work, on account of the war and sickness. The contract was then let to Joseph Corey, who was drafted, and suddenly called away, just as he was completing the inside work. Calvin Kilander was next employed and finished the carpenter work, and old Billy A. Smith a U. B. preacher, did the plastering. This is a large, commodious, substantially built frame building with six large rooms, a hall and a porch. It still stands on the place with no changes except it has since had a new roof. In the little hewed log cabin were born to them, six children, viz: Rachel M., William G., Robert O.V., John B., Asahel C. and James M. They moved into their new building about 1864 or 65. In this house another child was born, viz: Morton. The log house stood and was used for a summer and weave house for several years, and was finally abandoned and torn down in the year '75 or '76. The old log barn still stands on the place. They had toiled long and hard, worked early and late for many years, economizing and denying themselves of the pleasures and some of the comforts of life, until, in all they had bought and paid for 240 acres of land and had about 70 acres of it under fence and in good cultivation. Much of the soil had been drained by what is known as blind ditches, in order to carry off the water during wet seasons, so that crops could be raised. The orchard

and garden shrubbery were in good bearing condition, and plenty of fruit and berries were raised every year. They also had a good deal of stock: horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. And were altogether comfortably fixed for farmers. In the year 1873, they began making preparations to buy property in some small town, move there and spend the balance of their lives where they would not have so much hard work, and where they could see and enjoy more, and be more useful in helping others. Up to this time all the children were living, and the two oldest had received two or three terms of schooling away from home. Both had attended one term of a graded school conducted by Mike Frash at Hartford city, and the writer had attended a term at Montpelier and one at Ridgeville, Ind. They had educated them for teachers and they were both now teaching. At this time the children were all at home but the writer who was teaching at Willow Springs, Douglass county, Kan. While there in a letter dated Jan. 1874 father tells me of his intention to farm only one more year, then he intended to give his children the first chance to handle the farm, and property on it: says he may go into a grange store at Hartford or Montpelier. He speaks in that letter of the prosperity of the grange, to which he was very much attached. He speaks of his business affairs, of his intention to purchase property in town and tells how much money he now has out at interest, but says: "This is known to no one but myself and family." He says: "I have always found that the man who succeeds best, is the one who keeps his business to himself." He closes that letter by saying: "Remember he that would do well, must live well. Honor God and he will honor you." I shall now copy some of his letters written to me. This is done in order to keep before the reader as much as possible the trend of his mind and actions. Perhaps in no other way can this be as well seen and recalled, as from his own letters.

The first one I copy was written to me in Kansas, about one month before the one referred to above. It is this:

Nov. 24, 1873.

"Well, William, we were glad to hear of your whereabouts, good health and well doing. Hope you will succeed in life and become useful, honorable and good. The only way to attain to these ends is to do right yourself, and turn a cold shoulder to everything that is wrong or immoral. My own health is poor. I have the chills half the time. We have got about two-thirds of our corn gathered. I have only been feeding the hogs about two weeks. I turned them out and let them take the mast after I fed out the old corn. The price of hogs run down as low as \$2.50, but are on the advance now; worth \$3.30. I want to feed ours about 3 weeks yet. We have 28 head to sell; they are a nice lot of hogs. I butchered the red cow and peddled her out; she came to about \$40. I hauled the staves you made and sold them at \$17 a thousand. Out of 500 they threw out 82 staves. They run down as low as \$14, and they have quit buying. We have not threshed the clover seed yet. We have the barn shed and floor packed full. Charlie has got well and we are using him. He is at least one-fourth heavier than when you left. Write often and tell me all about the country.

Your Father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

In his next letter he speaks of his preparation to move to Hartford City.

"WELLS CO., IND., May 10, 1874.

MY DEAR SON:

According to previous promises I will try to write down all that I think will be of interest to you now. Our health is good, except your mother's. She has not been stout all winter and spring. My own health has improved ever since last fall, till I am now almost as stout as I ever was. The last time I was weighed, I weighed 187 pounds. I have attended grange meeting once, and sometimes twice every week, since the 1st of Dec. last. It has made a great change in our neighborhood every way. We have had a long disagreeable winter. It rained on until the 1st of March, and has been very dry and cold ever since, until within a few days, when it has turned very warm and nice. We commenced to feed our stock about the middle of October, and have fed them ever since, or until a few days ago. Our hay is all gone and the corn nearly; about 100 bushels left. We wintered all the stock through without losing any but two shoats. Our stock is in better condition than usual, except some of the cattle.

We have 1 young calf, 8 lambs and 15 pigs. We have had all our ploughing done for two weeks, have planted 7 acres, have to more crossed off one way, will finish it in two days. We are putting out 17 acres of corn, sowed 4 of oats a month ago; they look well. Will sow one acre of buckwheat. We cleared about one acre of new ground. Our wheat looks as well as ever I saw it. Yours is nearly all frozen out. We cut the stalks off of it in March. I don't think it will make more than a half crop. But this is the case all over the country. Some fields are being ploughed up. Our clover is badly frozen. I sowed all of the wheat ground in clover this spring. I have bought Bill Purdue's share of the reaping machine for \$52. I went to James Waugh's nursery and got 20 apple trees and filled out the orchard and set out that little patch back of the old garden. Our orchard will be very full this year, peach trees and all. Well, I told you in my last letter that I had just closed a contract for three acres of land in Hartford, and so I had. When it came to be surveyed there was 3 acres and 15 rods. It cost me \$263 cash. There had been a mortgage on it for a long time, and the man offered it very low for cash, to keep the mortgage from being closed. It is nicely situated. A part of it is the highest ground inside of the corporation. I did not buy it to speculate on, but for my own use and that of my children, as I could not have made a better investment. My intention is to put out a nursery on it next spring. We expect to move there this fall and rent the farm stock and all that is necessary to carry on the farm, so as to make it profitable both to myself and the renter, by giving a per cent of all that is made and sold on the farm. I shall want the boys that are under age to work most of the time on the farm, so long as they do right and make it to their interest to do so. Now, as you and Rachel are the only two of my children that I can make any legal contract with, (being the only two of age) you can have the first refusal, and at a bigger per cent than a stranger can get, if you do right. Rachel is anxious to try it. You can make up your mind and let us know in time to make other arrangements if you do not want it.

Now I think I have written all that you care about knowing, and maybe more too; but I have done as I told you I would in the onset. Write often.

YOUR FATHER."

Soon after, I returned home; in Oct. 1874, to take charge of the place. And just as they were about to move to Hartford the whole family was taken down one

by one with the typhoid fever. This was a winter of trial and affliction in their family. All except the mother and youngest, went through a severe and extended spell of sickness. All was done that clever and generous neighbors and the doctor could do to assist in a time of trouble and misfortune. But on Dec. 12, death entered the home and took away the third child, Robert. He was then 20 years of age, never had had much sickness and was the strongest and most rugged of the children. With him the attack was quite severe and his sickness lasted just 21 days. This was the first time death had ever entered this home, and it was a severe and lasting affliction. The balance all recovered, though the disease lingered on several of the family until spring. And it was not until March 12, 1875, that the move to Hartford was made. It was then with some reluctance and sore disappointment that they went at all. The death in the family had destroyed his plans, as the three oldest were to remain on the farm. However the move was made, and Rachel, myself and Asahel remained on the place, and took charge of the property there and farmed for about one year and a half, when we decided to give it up and return to school. From that time, since, the farm has been leased to different persons. After they became settled in Hartford he began preparing his five acre tract of land there for a nursery. The location is in the southwestern part of the city. At that time the land was unimproved. In the course of two or three years he had a fine lot of young trees, plants and shrubbery. He had established the business known since then as the Hartford City Nursery, which he continued to improve and control as long as he lived. He established there a prosperous and growing business. In this he displayed his usual industry, enterprise and promptness. He worked hard, early and late, for the success of his business; and before his death the place began to present an ap-

pearance of attractiveness and beauty. This useful enterprise, built up by him in these few years, included not only all kinds of fruit trees, but also the choicest varieties of vines, ornamental trees, and small fruits. It was patronized far and near.

From the beginning of his life in Hartford he was a more attentive student of the bible. They both became at once identified with the M. E. church at that place, to which they were closely attached. About this time a new church was built, and to it he was one of the heaviest contributors. He at once took an active part in the work of the Sunday school, and never missed an opportunity to express himself or exert his influence in favor of the cause of temperance. He believed and taught that a Christian life was above all things the most essential, and nothing gave him more real pleasure than to be able to say or do something that would mould true Christian principles in the lives of others, especially young men. He was a plain, out-spoken man, a great talker, and used good language. He had natural gifts and powers for public speaking, and in that was forcible, emphatic and to the point. When he participated in this way it was when his whole soul was in it, and he would cut and shave very closely when the case demanded it. He would not dodge the truth for anyone's feelings, but would come square to the issue, face to face, and accept no compromise as between right and wrong. He would speak his sentiments and convictions boldly and distinctly, and no matter who it hit. He would often say: "If the shoe fits, wear it."

When he arose to speak every one knew he would not screen any guilty one. He would say: "Be sure you are right then go ahead." It is said by those who were present at the last public meeting he attended in Hartford, a few weeks before his death, that he never was so eloquent and earnest as he was in what he said on

that occasion and that he never enjoyed a meeting better. He was what might be called an off hand speaker, as he never read nor committed what he had to say. But he always studied up his subject, and often in preparing for a talk would make notes and write down the principal thoughts of his talk. Some of these sketches have been preserved. Below I give a synopsis as he wrote it, of one of his speeches made at one time to the Sunday school at Hartford.

"I am going to talk to the Sunday school boys and girls. That is a good name, Sunday school boys and girls. Hold on to the good name, never let go. Now what does it take to constitute boys and girls gentlemen and ladies? Good behavior and true Christian piety. Never swear boys, it is mean to swear. A boy of high moral standing, would almost as soon be caught stealing sheep as to be heard swearing. It is vulgar and altogether too low for a good boy. It is cowardly, because it implies a fear of not being believed or obeyed. It is ungentlemanly. A gentleman, according to Webster is a genteel man, well bred, refined and will not swear. Swearing is indecent, offensive to delicacy and extremely unfit for human ears. It is foolish. Want of decency is want of sense. Swearing is abusive to the mind which conceives the oath and to the tongue which utters it, and to the person at whom it is aimed."

He was always a republican and remained true to the old principles of that party, but of late years he condemned the corruption practiced in the leading parties and identified himself with the party of temperance and reform. He was a strong prohibitionist and worked hard for its success. He was bitter against the saloons, zealous in the progress of temperance and had great confidence of its success. I print here some notes he has made preparatory to a talk he made at Hartford City on this subject; also a part of the speech as he has left it written. This was during the campaign of 1884.

"Is it true that alcohol is king? Does he elect our officers? Does he rule our business men? Does he respect the Lord's day? Does he respect our places of worship? Does he help the poor and needy? Does he impose unjust taxation upon us? Does he fill our courts with criminals? Does he send our citizens to the

house of correction, poor house and state prison? Does he bring peace, happiness and prosperity to the families he visits? Or does he bring poverty, misery and woe? Last, but not least, does he not violate every law of the land and then defy the law? It has ruined millions, socially, morally and financially, and has plunged their souls into hopeless eternity. And to-day it's marching its millions in the very same channel, down to a premature grave. Moderate dram drinkers, I would say to you that you cannot remain in that condition long. You must soon become a teetotaler or a drunkard. And remember, the man that becomes intoxicated loses the entire control of his reasoning faculties, and consequently is ready to commit any crime that even a demon would dare to do. In hundreds of cases has murdered the innocent ones of his own family, those whom he loved dearest on earth; and then as his reason begins to return he becomes horror stricken at the horrible deed he has committed, and for fear of the penalty of the law he then commits suicide, and plunges his sin stained soul into hopeless eternity."

The Rev. N. Gillam, a Methodist minister at Hartford for several years, who left there in the spring of '83, was one of his true and tried friends. Their friendship and intimacy was very close and continued so after the minister's leave from Hartford, as the following letters demonstrate. The Rev. Gillam still lives at Richmond, Ind. He is an able minister in high standing. He is one of the closest students of the bible and is well informed generally. He is a man of broad judgment and is universally beloved for his uprightness and true Christian character. After his leave from Hartford they carried on a correspondence, and I here copy parts of several of the Rev. Gillam's letters, which show something of the character of their relations with each other and their work together. I begin with the first of his letters that I have.

RICHMOND, IND., July 23, 1883.

DEAR BRO. ALEXANDER:

I have been thinking of writing to you for some time, but have been very busy fixing our house, building &c. I took cold before we left there, was quite hoarse, as you remember, the last Sabbath we were there, and especially Sabbath night, when we had that large crowd; that nearly used me up; and still I was

greatly delighted to have such a pleasant and happy closing up; never had one more so. While we are trying to fix up a temporary home here for a few days we are not forgetting to prepare for our better and eternal home above, where I hope we shall meet after a while, and never part as we have to do here. I praise God that he put it into our hearts to commence that last protracted meeting there before conference, and for its happy results; for the number that came into the church; and for the manner in which the meeting was conducted. Glad to hear that the young people are taking so much interest in the church. You remember how often I preached to the young men there of Sunday evenings; more, I believe, than I ever did in any charge I have ever been in. I don't know why. I often told them how the young men in larger towns were laboring in the Young Men's Christian association, for the salvation of souls; holding meetings in town and in the country for that purpose. Little did I think that so soon they would have such an organization in Hartford.

I feel of course a little lonely, being out of the regular work, my life work, the work which I love so much, to which I have given my physical, intellectual and moral strength. But all these have been given most cheerfully, willingly, gladly and thankfully. Had I a thousand lives to spend I would most gladly spend them all in that way. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise his holy name.

Love to all. Write soon and tell all about the church.

N. GILLAM."

"RICHMOND, IND., April 16, 1884.

DEAR BRO. ALEXANDER:

We had not time to call and see you as we returned from conference; there was but little time between trains. We had a nice conference, pleasant weather after the first day. The church here has settled down into deep piety with little or no fanaticism. I have heard the word sanctification named but few times since we came here; but deep, regular, consistent experience. How refreshing to enjoy such meetings! A sister was here the other day who has professed it. She said the doctrine has been brought into great disrepute here by the bad conduct of those who profess it. The people say it don't bear the right kind of fruit. Its fruit seems to be very much alike everywhere; that is the fanatics. As it has passed away here so I hope it will there after a while. I hope you, Bro. Gable and the other brethren will never allow such men as Reber and Gossett to hold meetings in the church. It is disgraceful and lowers the character of the church.

I am so glad that the Lord enabled me to hold a steady hand while I was in that charge; for I consider, after time to look over the whole ground, that the period of my stay there was the crisis in the history of that charge. And I praise God that he gave us the seal of his approval, by favoring us with increasing prosperity to the last, notwithstanding the strong opposition; and I am glad that prosperity still attends your efforts. May it continue until the people are saved and the charge becomes strong. We feel deep interest in the charge, and are anxious to hear all we can from it. I look back to my stay and work at Hartford with great pleasure. Sorry we failed to see Rachel. Give our special regards to her and the other children. I enjoyed the meeting that night very much; felt that the Lord was with us. Some one said 76 spoke in less than 20 minutes. Was glad to hear them.

Please write soon and tell us everything. Regards to everybody. Tolerably well.

Yours truly,

N. GILLAM."

In a long letter, written Nov. 9, 1886, he speaks of his work at Richmond, his success, health etc., and closes it with the following:

"O how I would love to drop in and have a hearty shake hands with you and the family, break bread and have an hour's talk as in the days of other years. We can say so little in a letter, and yet it affords some satisfaction. I cannot forget Hartford. My experience there was rather peculiar, and somehow I feel a deeper interest in the charge there than any charge I have been in, and I have great anxiety for its prosperity. Hope your new preacher is succeeding well. Our regards to everybody. All well.

Yours truly,

N. GILLAM."

This is his last letter to Father, written less than three months before his death:

"RICHMOND, IND., Jan. 13, 1886.

DEAR BRO. ALEXANDER:

I intended to write you the first of the year, but having been away from home about that time, I neglected it. I began this year with a strong desire to think more of Christ, of the cross and gospel salvation than ever before. I am now in my seventy-second year, and of course my days are nearly numbered. I am anxious to live so near the cross, and have such constant, abiding faith in Christ that all undue care and anxiety and the fear of death shall be removed, that I may be able to say with the poet:

"Come welcome death, thou end of fears, I am prepared to go." St. Paul says: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ." Some glory in wealth, others in fame, in learning, in fashion, in strength, but Paul gloried in the cross. He was not only willing to bear the cross, but gloried in it. I fear there are some who bear the cross occasionally that do not glory in it. They do it rather from a sense of duty, and because the church expects, and requires it of them, and not because they delight in it. This is an unpleasant an unhappy way to live. There is a much better way to live as you know. You know I do not boast of myself, of my own goodness, or righteousness, and yet I want to say to you in this letter that I can, most heartily join the Apostle in saying that I do glory in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. I delight in the prayer meeting, class meeting, love feast, preaching service, Sunday school, sacrament, baptism, family prayer and closet devotion. I have no doubt but what you can join me in all of these statements. Dear Bro. I have written this morning as I feel; if I don't interest you let me know and I will write differently next time. I think a little of passing that way as I go to conference, but it is not likely.

I am still filling my charge. Next Saturday and Sunday will be our last quarterly meeting. I will be alone and wish you could be with me, think you could help me very much. How is the church prospering? Does Rachel's health hold up? The Lord bless you all. We are all tolerably well.

Yours truly,

N. GILLAM."

During Father's life in Hartford he was a member of the church official board, a class leader, assistant Sunday school superintendent, and teacher, and was licensed to exhort. In his attendance and duties in this work no one was more prompt and regular. He would be at his post, no matter how disagreeable the weather was. If he was ever absent it was caused from sickness at home. In that case he would try to persuade some one to go, and was sure to send his weekly contribution if he could find anyone going.

I now print a number of his letters written to me after they moved to Hartford. This is to enable us to follow closely his life, by having before us his own words, which always described clearly the thoughts and actions that were above all others. From his let-

ters we learn where his mind and heart were and what his hands were doing. My absence from home was almost continuous during his entire life in Hartford. The balance of the family were at home or near there most of the time. So his correspondence with me was fuller and more extended, and consequently leaves more to us from which we may yet learn of him and by which we remember him better. His letters, as will be noticed, are usually brief and to the point. He would often write only a page and send it with a letter from some other one of the family. These are all preserved and are now highly prized. I print only such letters and parts as may be of interest to others now. I take first from one written Sept. 6, 1877, two and one half years after his removal to Hartford. It was written to me at Kalamazoo, Mich., while engaged in selling a book, "The Royal Path of Life."

"DEAR SON:

I will finish up the letter, first by thanking you for the handsome present you sent me. I would not take \$5.00 for the book. Think it one of the best I ever read, and will recommend it to others. I have just got home from the farm. I sowed that west field in wheat while I was there. Never put wheat in in better order in my life. Asahel had the field in good order for sowing when I went. His corn has come out and will make a half crop. Ben Banter has rented another place and wants to leave mine this fall; don't know who I can get on it yet. I think some of getting somebody to keep house for the boys and attending it ourselves. Benny and Asahel will work at getting out timber a few weeks now to get them some clothes. Jim will go to work in Harbs factory next Monday, at 50 cts. a day for a few weeks, and then he and Morton will start to school. Jim has money enough to get his clothes. He earned it himself. He is a very ambitious boy and will make his way through the world, if I can only keep him from falling into bad company for a few years longer. Benny is a good, obedient boy. I will pay your tax this fall. I hope you are a good boy and honoring God. Write often.

YOUR FATHER."

The next letter I copy was written while I was at Ft. Wayne college.

"HARTFORD CITY, March 3, 1879.

MY DEAR SON:

I received your letter of the 18th ultimo., noted its contents. I am always to read a letter from any of my children. My anxiety for your well being, both soul and body, is all the same. When you were 12 years old I often looked over my five little boys and asked God to so help me to train them that they might become good and useful men in the world, and be an honor to their parents. The great pride of my life has been in the welfare of my children, both spiritual and temporal. To this end I have gone through thick and thin, until I am now growing old and my days well nigh spent. When I glance back over my life I see many mistakes that I have made; but they were mistakes, and not wilfully perpetrated to bring trouble and sorrow to my family.

I am glad that I can say with a clear, steady hand that I know that I have access with God and that he is my refuge in all times of trouble. I am glad that you have become religious; it is a source of comfort and happiness to me which none but a child can impart to a parent. Would to God the others would follow your example. My prayer is that God will spare you long on the earth, and that you may be instrumental in bringing many to Christ. I shall be glad to read a letter from you whenever you feel disposed to write.

Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

The next was written while teaching at Huntertown, Ind., dated Nov. 22, 1879.

"Well, William, after looking over Ma and Morton's letters I find but little left for me to say, but will try to say something lest you my think I am growing careless about your welfare. My health has been poor; have had the chills nearly all fall. Have had Asahel helping me with my work. Have got but little of my corn or hay over from the place. The corn crop was light. My sales in nursery stock this fall amounted to about \$70, which helped me out in my building. I cannot finish it up this fall, but will get it so that we can use it this winter; it will be very convenient when finished; it has cost me over \$200.

We have a protracted meeting going on for four or five weeks. There is much good being done; many have joined the church. I have not had the privilege of attending as much as I desire on account of my health being so poor. I was just reading about the great parade that was made over Gen. Grant at Chicago, and thought that it excelled the parade that was made over the Savior of the world when he entered into Jerusalem. Surely we

should render greater praise to him who provides salvation for the soul than he he that can save the body only. I hope you are still trusting in him that will save both soul and body. Write often.

Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

The next was received at Fort Wayne. It is given in full:

"HARTFORD CITY, May 11, 1880.

DEAR SON:

As Morton has finished his epistle by telling you all he could think of, and then adding that he would leave me to tell the rest, there is but little rest to tell. My own health is excellent. My appetite good, sleep sound, my mind clear and my sight almost as good as when I was young; though I cannot stand hard work. My nerves are still weak and I feel very tired at night. I am getting along very slowly with my work; will have to hire some. Morton is very good to help me in what he can do, but there is so much of the work that is too heavy for him. He is my clerk etc.

Well, Billy, I am always glad to know that my children are doing well. Nothing gives me more pleasure; and nothing gives me more trouble than to know that any of them are not doing well. Twenty years ago I looked forward to the time when my offspring would be an honor to us and a blessing to the world. For more than twenty years this has been my constant prayer; some time with very little hope; but of late my hopes are brightening up. I have not been out to the farm yet. My hot beds are doing well and my sales will be good. I had 400 bills struck. I send you a copy of them. Write often. Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

In one he wrote me Nov. 2, 1880, the day of Garfield's election, he said: "This is one of the great days of this nation, perhaps one of the greatest. All Christian men should ask the supreme Ruler to guide their ballots aright." The next was written while I was attending Fort Wayne college, and is here copied in full.

"HARTFORD CITY, May 16, 1881.

DEAR SON:

Your very welcome letter was received in due time; it gave us much pleasure to read such a report from one of our own offspring just starting out in the world, (we hope) to be a blessing to the world. Remember that no sane person ever lived to ma-

ture years in this world without being either a blessing or a curse to those with whom they mingled. And I would also have you remember that it is the little daily transactions of our lives that make the sum total in the end. Be careful how they are transacted, then; as the days pass by we cannot recall them.

Asahel was at home yesterday. He is making some money. He is moral and conducts himself very well. It is a very moral place where he is, and he says that he attends church regular. Benny has been quite sick for a few days. He is better now, so that he is in the warehouse at work. He takes good care of his money. Jim is still in the store and makes money fast. My nursery sales were not so large this spring as I expected, owing to the stock being so badly damaged with frost the past winter. I have been trying to find some place to put your money at interest, where you could get it on demand, but have not as yet been successful. If you can put it in safe hands there perhaps you had better do so; but if you prefer placing it in my care I will do the best I can with it. I am getting along fine with my work this spring. I have been blessed with excellent health this spring or I could not have gotten along with my work. I think I never did more hard work in my life in the same length of time than I have this spring. Now I have written you a long letter; did not think I would write but a few lines when I began. Write often.

Your father, JOHN ALEXANDER."

In order to give a better understanding to some of these letters, I must necessarily refer to my own movements. After completing a course at Ann Arbor, I started April 10, 1883, for Mandan, Dakota, to begin the practice of law. This trip was somewhat against his wish. I at first became in some ways dissatisfied with the new country, its temptations and surroundings, and was undecided as to my future actions. I divulged all this to him and asked his advice. The following is his full letter in reply:

"HARTFORD CITY, May 21, 1883.

DEAR SON:

Never did I take up my pen to write to you that I was more at a loss to know what to say for the best. I received your letter of the 13th, and read carefully and anxiously, for I knew you would tell as near the truth as you could, and that you had been there long enough to form a tolerable correct idea of what the

future would be. I am not disappointed, so far as my own views were concerned, in reading your letter. I think you are correct concerning your views in regard to the future of the town and country. There is not much doubt (in my opinion) but that the excitement is now at its topmost round, and the tide will turn the other way soon. But I have no doubt but Mandan will make a leading city in the west. Dear son, if I only knew what advice to give you for the best I would gladly do so. But you probably know what is best for you to do. I have a great anxiety for your success in life and in business; but I am about at my wit's end so far as advising you is concerned; but I have all confidence in your own judgment that you will do right in your profession. I wish now, as I did before you went west, that you had located somewhere near home. But you are there now and will no doubt satisfy yourself fully, whether it would be best for you to remain or come back. I felt very sure that the society would be just as you found it, very rough and hard. Such is sure to be the case in all new countries. I am proud of you when you say no to what is wrong, and dare to do right though you stand alone. The best that live on earth are those that dare to do right in the face of opposition. They come to the front after a while. Good men are scarce, and are hunted for in this age more than ever before. Do right and success is sure to follow. If you become needy be sure to let me know and I will surely help you. Remember what I told you when I bid you good-bye, that I could get money almost any time. Nothing would trouble me more than if I thought you were needy and would not let me know.

Asahel and his wife are here. He talks sometimes of going west, but will probably settle in Cumberland. The weather has been very cold and backward here; at least one month later than ordinary seasons. This morning the ground is covered with snow and very cold. My sales this spring were light. We are just putting out our garden; had a hard job to keep our plants from freezing, but have saved them so far. There has been a number of deaths in town this spring; from one to three a week, and mostly young men. Quite a revival has been going on, and 15 or 20 young men and women have joined the church; many of them the best young men in town. Our health is tolerably good at present.

Now Billy, I can't think of anything else that would be of any interest to you. I will send you the county paper if you desire, occasionally. I love to read the papers you send; should like to read them once in a while as long as you stay there. Write often.

Your father, JOHN ALEXANDER."

A short time afterwards I was anxious to go into a wild land speculation on the frontier and wrote to him for money. This is his answer:

"HARTFORD CITY, June 11, 1883.

DEAR SON:

Yours of 2nd inst at hand. We are always glad to hear from you, but am sorry that I do not as yet see how I can get the amount of money you desire me to, unless I would give a mortgage on my property. That I should not like to do unless I was very sure that your land speculating scheme was a sure thing. From what I read of that place I feel sure that it is at its top-most round. The excitement under such booming prospects as now favor Mandan and vicinity is sure to take a tumble down from two to five years, and the men that has the money then will be the lucky ones. These things seem very reasonable to me.

Enclosed I send you P. O. order for \$10; if you get in need be sure and let me know. I will always help you a little, at least. We are all tolerably well at present, and busy in our garden and nursery. Please excuse my short letter. Drop me a postal when you receive this. Good-bye, son. Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

While at Ipswich, Dak., he wrote very few letters, as the two others of the family kept up the correspondence. I copy one written to me while there:

"HARTFORD CITY, Aug. 25, 1884.

DEAR SON:

Yours at hand. Glad to hear from you once more, but was much disappointed when you said you were not coming home before the holidays. We had been looking for you to come two or three weeks before we received your letter. I hope you will soon get enough of the 'far west' and come home to stay.

I hope you are doing well, but cannot tell much about how you are doing from your letters. I ask God every day of my life to shield you from the evils of the world and make you a good and great man. All good men are great. Don't forget your dependence on God for everything.

We have a large amount of nursery stock in fine condition; not less than 10 or 12 thousand apple trees, besides almost everything else that grows in a nursery; but we do not expect much of a sale this fall. Too little money in circulation; perhaps will be better next spring when the presidential campaign is settled. I want you to write Morton a letter and advise him to stay at home and

go to school here until he gets through. He wants to go to Minnesota and go in with some man in a printing office. If he goes that will be the last of his education.

Write a little oftener if you have the time, and commence making your arrangements now to come home during the holidays, and then you will be sure to come. Good-bye, son.

Your father, JOHN ALEXANDER."

I received the following two from him at LaGrace, Dakota:

"HARTFORD CITY, Sept. 25, 1885.

DEAR SON:

It has been a long time since I wrote a line to you, but I have by no means forgotten you for one day. My health is not very good, but as good as could be expected for a man of my age &c. My nursery looks pretty well this fall; did not put out much stock last spring. Tended a very good garden this summer. Benny worked about one month for me last spring, and has been sick ever since. I hire a little help once in a while. Will build a wood house and put up some fencing this fall. There was a man here a few days ago to look at your land. He only wanted 2 or 3 acres to start a fruit farm on. He liked the situation well. I told him if he would take 4 acres he could have it for \$80 per acre. He said it was the best offer he had had, and would consider the offer and let me know before long. If he takes 4 acres I will take the balance. I have the promise of a man from Ohio to come this fall and look at the farm. This is all the prospect I have of selling either.

Billy, be a good man in every sense of the term, and you will prosper.

Your father,  
JOHN ALEXANDER."

Two and one-half months after writing the above he wrote his last letter to me—a short one. In February, two months after the date of this letter, I was at home and saw my father for the last time. The letter was written 3 months and 20 days before his death. In all these letters his exact language is given as written by his own hand, and many of them are given in full. This is his last letter to me:

"Dec. 14, 1885.

DEAR SON:

As I have a few leisure moments, will write a few lines to

you. My health is not very good. I work most of the time; no one to help me do anything only as I hire a little once in a while. My sales were very light this fall. My stock was badly damaged last winter. That man that was looking at your land still wants it. He is trying to sell his farm, and if he sells it will buy yours. Thinks he will sell his between this and spring.

I hope you are doing well, and not doing anything that is wrong. Good-bye.

Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

After a very brief and unexpected attack of paralysis of the whole nervous system, first noticed about the 4th of Feb., 1886, without any apparent pain or suffering, it gradually grew worse, until Sunday morning, April 4th, when he seemed to receive the final death shock, and was entirely helpless after that. About six o'clock the same day he peacefully and quietly passed away, lacking 19 days of being 61 years of age. During this last affliction he appeared to suffer no pain, but was most of the time unable to help himself, although he would still try to go about. His speech was also affected, and for the last few days he only uttered a word occasionally. But all through and until the last he seemed to realize his condition and good-naturedly but absolutely refused any kind of medicine. The disease was one that medicine could not affect. At first he worried some because he could not go about to attend to his work. Aside from this his appearance up to the last moment was pleasant and cheerful, and seemed to indicate perfect contentment. After the breath left him the expression in his strong features left on his countenance was that of perfect peace. Those who saw it say they never knew his face to look so beautiful and full of real content. On Wednesday following the funeral was preached by the Rev. N. Gil-lam at Hartford City, and the body was followed by a large procession of friends to the grave at Asbury Chapel, in Wells Co., where the last tribute was paid. Following is the obituary as printed in the Hartford C. papers:

"John Alexander was born in Logan county, Ohio, April 23rd, 1825. In 1837 he came with his parents to Wells Co., Ind., and settled in Jackson township, where he continued to reside for about 38 years, and until he came to Hartford City. In the spring of 1849 he married Melissa Sparr, a sister of Rev. James Sparr, of Muncie, who survives him. Their family consisted of one daughter and six sons, all of whom are living except the second son, Robert O., who died in the latter part of 1874.

When a young man he was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he remained a worthy, consistent and acceptable member until his death. He was not a mere nominal church member, or professor of religion, but was a devoted and zealous worker in the cause of his divine Master. He served the church of his choice with great efficiency in the various official relations of trustee, steward, class leader, exhorter and Sunday school superintendent. As a Sunday school teacher for several years past, no one was more faithful and constant. He warmly espoused the cause of temperance and prohibition, and was firmly and decidedly on the right side of all moral questions. In a word, he was one of the best and most valuable citizens of the community. His death occurred April 4th, 1886, after an illness of about a month, his age being 61 years, lacking 19 days. The funeral services were conducted by his former pastor, Rev. N. Gillam, on the 7th inst. He was buried in the Asbury Chapel cemetery, in Wells county."

The following was printed in the Hartford City "Times:"

"Mr. John Alexander, who died last week, was a man of remarkably strong characteristics. He was open and manifest in his likes and dislikes. He was plain, out-spoken and emphatic in sentiment. He was positive and immovable in his views on the Christian religion and on the absolute prohibition of strong drink as a beverage; believing that of all things most essential in this life is a thorough preparation for the next life, and that it should be attended to first and kept continually in mind; that intemperance is among the greatest of all evils, and that a young man can do no nobler act in honor to himself, his friends and his God than to sign the temperance pledge and stick to it. He never missed an opportunity to express himself upon these matters whenever he thought there was the slightest possibility of its accomplishing any good. Nothing gave him more pleasure than to say something or hear something said that was in any way effectual in turning somebody, and especially young men, from the

ways of sin and vice. No other subject consumed so much of his mind, and whenever about to part for a time with a child or a friend, his last words were words of advice. In his worldly affairs his motto was: 'Live within your means and never go in debt.' He found pleasure in industry, and disliked idleness.

Until of late years he took some active interest in public affairs and wielded an influence in his locality. Whatever position he took, if any, it was when he believed he was decidedly in the right, and that it was his duty to work. He was plain and outspoken, but firm and steadfast in his principles, and persevered until he accomplished something. The great aim of his whole life was to provide honorably a comfortable home and living for his family, and above all, to make sure preparation for the life to come, and to do all in his power to persuade others to prepare for it."

Shortly after his death I received the following letter from my mother:

"HARTFORD CITY, IND., Nov. 29, 1886.

MY DEAR SON:

God is too good to err or do anything wrong. He does all things for good. Get the best out of your life you can; it is short enough at best. Try to be useful and make others happy as well as yourself. I don't wonder at your father's talk and advice being impressed on your mind, for he talked to you all so much, and my prayer is every day that it might be remembered by every one of you, and that you may never forget it, and that I may yet live to see some of you, at least, fill his place in the church. He would get out of heart when he would see other young men working in the church. I would tell him he must wait the Lord's time, that we could not have it our own way, that I was sure our prayers were not in vain, perhaps they would be answered after we were gone. He always looked to a time when some of you boys would stand in high places; but for a year or two he hadn't said much about it. I want you children to get homes of your own and make them happy. Remember it is not wealth that makes happiness; of course you want comfort, but that is ours if we try. Always do what is right in everything and have a clear conscience. Do as I have often heard your father say: 'Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, and then you will do right.' He never said much to me, the time he was so bad sick, but he told the minister several times when he would speak to him about dying, that all was well. When he got better some of them told him it was the prayers of

the church that saved his life. He said: 'Why didn't you let me go when I was so near home?' He would often say if he only knew that he was instrumental in the salvation of one soul he would die satisfied. I think he realized that two years ago, in a revival meeting. In speaking to anyone concerning death he never seemed to doubt about himself; it was always his children and others he was concerned about. Different persons have told me since his death that they never saw anyone enjoy themselves as well as he did, nor ever saw anyone in such earnest at a revival meeting. Just before he got sick some of the members told me the last prayer meeting he was at he got up with the tears on his cheeks and asked them all to meet him in heaven. He was so devoted to the church. When he would be sick and be away a little while he could hardly wait to get back again. There was his greatest enjoyment of late years, and he surely did enjoy himself there.

I will send you some of the verses and some of his own thoughts that he has written down; also a great many verses and chapters he has marked, which were his favorites.

From your MOTHER."

They are as follows:

"Education is the safeguard of civil and religious liberty, the foundation of popularity. May it ever be protected from the ignorance of futurity."

"One of Garfield's best sayings was: 'The times need men and women that can look the devil square in the face and tell him he is the devil.'"

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."—Solomon.

"When a man's ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."—Prov. 16-7.

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?"—Psalms, 15th chap.

"He that believeth on me the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to my father."—John, 14th chap.

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard.' How many times we let them slip! Are there as many times yet to come? We will suppose there are. Are we any more likely to improve them? I will answer, we are not quite so likely, unless they are impressed upon us with more earnestness than ever before. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is able to save men from ungodly dispositions, bad tem-

pers and unholy practices. His blood will cleanse them from all sin. 'Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ will give thee light.'

"Then said they unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for many I say unto you will seek to enter in and shall not be able." —Luke 13:22-24.

"When we desire to seek the things of this world, we must strive if we obtain them. See how the great political parties strive for the highest office in the gift of the people, and only one obtains it. Not so with those who follow the injunction of the Master, but all may obtain."

"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

"If God be for us who can be against us?"

"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord."

"We ought to obey God rather than man."

"Men of honest report are full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom."

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life."

"Get right, now in the fellowship of the Lord and you will have what you desire."

"Be ready to give an answer to the hope you have within you."

Romans 8th chapter, 35 to 39 verses inclusive.

"In these verses the apostle sets forth clearly that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. What a glorious relation we sustain to Christ!"

"James 2:14-23-24-26; Hebrews 6:4-5-6; Hebrews 4:1; First John 4:7 and 21; First Kings 18:21; Ezekiel 20th chapter; St. John 20:40; Psalms 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:23; Numbers 29th chapter; Gillam's last sermon, 1st lesson, Isaiah 25th chapter; 2nd lesson, Acts 13th chapter; text, 'This I know, that my Redeemer liveth.'" First Cor. 12:14.

"I want to live so that I may gain heaven and feel that I am welcome there." J. A.

This, she says is the last he ever wrote:

"Dear Master, not for ease nor worldly pleasure,

Nor for fame my prayers shall be;

Gladly will I toil and suffer,

Only let me walk with thee." —J. A.

The following rules for daily self examination were observed by him, and a copy of them left with his papers:

"DEVOTIONS.—Were they performed in sincerity, with devout reverence and true faith in Christ? Jas. 4:3.

BUSINESS.—Was it carefully gone about, with an honest purpose to deal justly with all with whom I had to do, as in the sight of God? Mic. 6:8.

CONVERSATION.—Has it been vain and trifling, or such as becometh one professing godliness? 1st Peter 1:15.

LEISURE MOMENTS.—How were they spent, with idle indifference or with suitable reference to self improvement? Ephe. 5:16.

RECREATIONS.—Were they proper and free from all excess, or have I contracted guilt and sustained spiritual loss thereby? Eccl. 11:9; Luke 8:14.

TEMPTATIONS.—Have they been yielded to, or overcome through the help of divine grace? 1st Cor. 10:13.

PROVIDENCES.—Were they painful or pleasing, and how were they met: with murmuring or true submission? Heb. 12:4-8; Job 13:15.

The following is a clipping he preserved many years. All of these rules he admired very much, and often spoke of them to others. Many of them he observed strictly in his own life, and they were his mottoes:

"In the pocket of the Hon. Stephen Allen, who was drowned from on board the Henry Clay, was found a printed slip, apparently cut from a newspaper, of which the following is a copy. It is worthy to be put in every newspaper and engraved on every young man's heart:

Make few promises.

Always speak the truth.

Never speak evil of anyone.

Keep good company or none.

Live up to your engagements.

Be just before you are generous.

Never play at any game of chance.

Drink no kind of intoxicating liquors.

Good character above all things else.

Never borrow if you can possibly help it.

Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.

When you speak to a person look him in the face.

Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper.

Ever live (misfortune excepted) within your income.

Save when you are young, to spend when you are old.

Avoid temptation, through fear you may not withstand it.  
Small and steady gains give competency with a tranquil mind.  
If anyone speaks ill of you, let your life be so that none believe him.

Never run in debt unless you see a way to get out again.  
When you retire to bed think over what you have been doing during the day.

Never be idle; if your hands can't be employed usefully, attend to the cultivation of your mind."

These are also some of his rules:

"Never be cast down by misfortune.  
Keep your own secrets if you have any.  
Think often of death and your responsibility to God."

The following letter was received a few months after his death:

"WARREN, IND., Dec. 1, 1886.

MRS. MELISSA ALEXANDER,

DEAR SISTER:

Yours received in due time. It called up old-time memories and days long passed. I may give you the time of our early ministers if it will enable you to fix the date of Bro. John Alexander's conversion. It was under Joseph Ockerman's administration, in 1840 or 1841. I remember well of seeing Brother John at my father's house a year or two later, during Bradley's administration, and of his zealous labor and successful work at the altar, with mourners and seeking penitents. There was more than twenty souls converted and united with the church. And although he was then in his youthful days, none did more to advance the interest of the Master's cause than did that Alexander boy.

Mrs. Swain and myself are only in moderate health. The weight of three score and six years is bearing down upon us. The evening of life draws nigh.

SAMUEL H. SWAIN."

The following is from a letter received from my sister Rachel, soon after Father's death:

"There isn't a day ever passes but that I think of some things my father used to say; some words of cheer or advice. I can now recall the first saying of his. It was years and years ago, but is somuch like him: 'Who to his friends his money lends, may lose both money and his friends.' I have some of his letters to

me when I was in college. I will copy some of the things in them. He said:

'Some glory in wealth, others in fame, in learning, in fashion, in strength; but Paul gloried in the cross. He was not only willing to bear the cross, but he gloried in it.'

In Father's later years he took so much interest in advising and teaching young men. Here is some poetry he wrote in a book of mine. I think it was one of his favorite hymns:

'Though troubles assail,  
And dangers affright;  
Though friends should all fail,  
And foes all unite;  
But one thing secures us,  
Whatever betide;  
The bible assures us  
The Lord will provide.

The birds without barn  
Or storehouse are fed;  
From them let us learn  
To trust for our bread;  
His saints what is fitting  
Shall ne'er be denied,  
So long as 'tis written  
The Lord will provide.

His call we obey,  
Like Abram of old,  
We know not the way,  
But faith makes us bold;  
And though we are strangers,  
We have a good guide,  
And trust in all dangers  
The Lord will provide.

We may like the ships  
In tempests be tossed,  
On perilous deeps,  
But cannot be lost.  
In this our strong tower  
In safety we hide;  
The Lord is our power;  
The Lord will provide.'

In all his years he had for his chief object the welfare and prosperity of his children. From their earliest childhood he

taught them to learn the scriptures, to obtain knowledge, and to be industrious. I think there never was a person who lived more devoted to that one of Tennyson's sayings:

'To count that day lost when the low descending sun  
Views at thy hand no worthy action done.'

For no day with him was without work, or a well planned duty of some kind to perform. I don't think you can ever have the same feelings I have, though, concerning Father's lifetime, and especially his sickness and departure from us. I dare not think of it, for I know the deep sadness it brings. It's all plain before me all the while. There is only one hope I have of erasing all sorrow and being at all happy here, and that is that I may be the woman he intended me to be, one of the handmaids of my heavenly Father; it's not long here anyway, and then there is an eternity. I send you what he wrote me at Valparaiso:

"HARTFORD CITY, Feb. 4, 1885.

MY DEAR CHILD:

It has been a long time since I have written to you, but I have not forgotten you one day. Every day I present you anew to the Lord. I know he can keep all my children, and will do so if I do all I can to help them, both temporal and spiritual. I believe I am doing that. I am sorry that I can't help you all more.

Asahel and Annie were here two days. Their little babe is the sweetest little darling I ever saw. I love it as dearly as I ever did any of my own; why should I not?

Perhaps you have seen in the papers ere this an account of the powerful revival that is going on here in Hartford City, as there are reporters here every day from all parts of the state and other states, writing it up for the papers. I send you last week's Telegram; there is three or four columns of it. I have been so impressed for the last four weeks that the blessed Master is raising up and preparing my own dear child for a place in his vineyard, that I cannot refrain from mentioning it. I have seen you so often in my dreams and visions, working so bravely and calmly for the Master. We have had no S. S. for the last 3 weeks. Our meeting is going right on. Night before last not many seemed to come forward, and Philips named me out twice to go out in the crowd and urge them to come. I never felt less like I could do anything for the Lord in my life. I would rather he had knocked me clear out the door than to go out and persuade anyone to come to the altar, as I told him afterwards. I had not been taking much part in the meeting, but I crowded my way to a big man, about my age, asked him if he was a Chris-

tian. He said he was but his daughter was not. I asked the girl if she wanted to be a Christian. She said she ought to be but did not feel like starting then. I told her I had only one daughter and she was a Christian, and it did me more good to know that my daughter was working for the Master than if she possessed all of Vanderbilt's wealth. I told her how you led so many of your scholars to Christ, and that you would be glad to hold her up before the Savior, though she had never seen you, and if she would go to the altar I would take her name and address and write to you, and she could be sure that one away off was praying for her, who had never seen her and perhaps never would. She melted and reached her hand. I thanked God and told her to stand there until I got some lady to lead her. Mrs. Williamson was standing close by. I asked her if she would take her. She said she would be glad to do so. Her father and I followed. We and others encouraged her. She sought in great earnest an hour or more. I did not go to her for a long time. When I went she said the Lord was blessing her. She was at the altar last night, not fully satisfied. Her name is Lucy Wilson, postoffice Hartford City. She has two sisters and three brothers. She is about seventeen years old, and the second or third child. None but herself and father are religious. I think her mother has been dead four years. Now, my dear child, here is a little work for you. I know it will be a pleasure to you to perform it. Write her a letter and give her encouraging words, and it will be a star in your crown. I learn they are respectable people and a good family. Remember her name and address. I send stamp. Your father,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

I copy from a letter received from Aunt Rachel Sparr, also written soon after his death, together with two letters which he wrote to her during the last years of his life:

"In my talks with your father about his family he always manifested a deep concern for the future of his children, and you judge rightly when you refer to his wise counsel in your early teaching. If he made mistakes it was from lack of judgment from the head and not the heart. You must pass a few more years in this life and your relation change to that of a father with a dependent, helpless family, before you can fully understand what that tireless devotion was, to which you say you have been an eye witness. Yes, his work for his family was a life work, faithfully marking out step by step the path you are to tread, not

to the school house alone, but to the end of life. Looking from a worldly standpoint it would make it easier for you than it had been for him; but from a Christian standpoint it was to teach patient perseverance under disappointment and sore trial, ever keeping his eye on the star of hope, by faith, not by sight, trusting in God's promises. O may you be enabled to follow in his footsteps, shunning his mistakes and emulating his example; in this way be led to find your true position and calling in life.

As you stood by his silent and last resting place and asked the question: 'Is there no way that I can hear him speak to me just once more?' Yes, poor child, he speaks to you every day, when you think of his love for you as his first born son. I know with what fatherly pride he always looked forward to a bright future for you, and sometimes it seemed to me he thought you all most faultless. Yes, the time is forever past. You will come and go, but not as you once did; your counsel will be sought and your judgment relied upon. You to some extent must walk in his steps and hold a strong arm for the rest to lean upon, then turn away and bravely face a cold and selfish world yourself. I send you two letters of your father's to me, which you will readily recognize to be his hand and language. You see from the drift of his letters where his heart was. He has already gathered with those he spoke of. Sorrow here and anxiety is swallowed up now in an unalterable reality. How true his words, to be ready! He had his trials and troubles while living, but it's all over now, and he rests from labor. It seems at times I cannot realize he is not still on earth and that I must see him again and have another long talk with him. He always seemed to have such concern for his family."

"HARTFORD CITY, April 23, 1881.

DEAR BRO., SISTER AND FAMILY:

I have not forgotten your kindness to me during my sickness; though I have neglected to write or even answer your very kind and welcome letters so long. My business had become so deranged during my protracted illness that as I began to recover it was necessary that I should look after my own business matters first, and consequently had no time to write to friends &c.

My health has so improved that I am at work again. I gain strength very slow, but my general health is the best it has been for 20 years. My sight has so improved that I can see to read the very finest print without the aid of glasses. My mind is stronger and my memory better than ever before. I would say further that I am more inclined to use this world as a loose garment than ever before. There was two weeks of my sickness

that I was unconscious of anything that was going on. I remember James and A. J. Sparr when they came and I thought I would love to hear James pray once more, which you did, (I am told) but I do not remember of hearing you. From that time on, for nearly two weeks, is a blank in my life, as I cannot remember anyone or anything. Rachel, I have a faint recollection of you when you came to my bed as you were starting home. So it is; God has spared my life, and I feel that my sickness has been a great blessing to me; it has taken away a great deal of the dross and sourness from me and sweetened me up that I might be more useful, which I shall try to be.

Now perhaps I have given you a much longer detail of myself than you care to read. Please pardon me.

Hattie Shelton was buried last Wednesday at 4 p. m. B. G. Shinn preached the funeral sermon at their dwelling; it was an excellent discourse. Hattie was a good girl; was engaged to be married to a very fine young man. My own children have scattered off until only Morton and Benny are left. Rachel is teaching in Wells Co. and William near Fort Wayne. James is clerk-ing at Rirshbaum and Weiler's, at \$22 per month. Asahel is working at his trade in Dundee. They are all doing well. Benny is still in the warehouse and boards at home. He thinks of going to Fort Wayne to clerk in the fruit house soon. Uncle Ed. is quite poorly with a cancer. He must soon leave this world. Bro James and family are well; also C. S. Leonard's. Our church is in a very prosperous condition at present. My trade has been very good this spring. I have sold a great deal of nursery stock, which has been a great help to us.

Please excuse my hastily written letter and write often.

Your brother,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

"HARTFORD CITY, IND., March 5, 1884.

DEAR BRO., SISTER AND NIECE:

I feel rather under obligations to write you a letter of considerable length, which you know is not my manner of writing. My remarks will be directed to you, my dear sister.

Our dear old Uncle Edward has passed off the stage of action to try the unalterable laws of eternity. He died very suddenly last Sunday. His remains were consigned to the cold grave at Asbury Chapel yesterday, to await its resurrection. How important to be ready. 'Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.' Let us watch, lest coming suddenly he find us asleep. I cannot give you the particulars of Uncle's

death. They telephoned from Dundee to us on Monday that he died on Sunday and was to be buried on Tuesday about noon. We made preparations to start early Tuesday morning, if the weather was not too cold; but the thermometer being 10 below zero, we did not go. So it is, dear brother and sister, we are rapidly passing away and gathering somewhere else. I become almost anxious at times to know more about the other world than I can possibly learn here. But this life is only a span; like a vapor soon passes away and is gone. Short as this life is it is the life that we can honor and glorify God most in. Then how important it is that we try to please the Lord in all our ways. Solomon said: 'If a man's ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.' I am trying to please the Lord, not merely that my enemies may be at peace with me, but that I may glorify him. Our children were all well the last we heard from them. William is still in Dakota, doing well. Rachel is teaching; does not come home only every three or four weeks. Her school will be out the last of this month. Asahel is in New Cumberland, working at his trade. He and his wife are getting along well. She is a good woman. James is still in the same store, and gets good wages. He is a good clerk. Benny is at home this winter; has rented his part of the warehouse to Winters. Morton is in school and will get into the highest room next year if he lives. Melissa's and my own health has not been very good all winter. Charleys' are all as well as usual. Mattie is no better, but is gradually growing more helpless. James and family are well. Uncle Edward's family are all well. Poor old Aunt, God bless her the few days she may stay here. Should like to know if you had any late word from Julia, and where she is now and when she will be at home. May her life be spared that she may return safe home, has been my prayer for 5 years. Do you know whether Kate Cory went or not? We do not see anything in the Advocate about her.

We had a big revival here this winter. Our church debt is all paid, and the church never was in so prosperous a condition as now. We will organize the county into a temperance county soon.

Your brother,

JOHN ALEXANDER."

The following is from one of his true friends and co-workers at Hartford City:

"I remember John Alexander affectionately, as my co-laborer on the official board of Grace M. E. church, Hartford City, Ind. He was very exact and careful in all his reports, but especially so

in regard to the spiritual welfare of his class. In this report he was accustomed to go into minute and interesting details. His faithfulness in regard to the discharge of his duty also made a strong impression. Often after a hard day's work he would make great efforts to be present at all meetings where duty seemed to call him. Another peculiarity of Bro. John was his great self sacrifice. He invariably appeared in plain clothes so that he might have more to give, and also to show to all that he was a pattern of Christian life.

When his death was announced to me it impressed me so deeply that my thoughts were upon his life for several days. I was most deeply touched by his advice and kindly words the last time I saw him. He knew well the efforts we were making to educate our children, and he then referred to his own sacrifices in this direction. 'At one time,' he said, 'I was much in debt on this account and scarcely knew how to act nor what to do. My confidence in God, however, in all this was steadfast. In a few years the children were all useful and honored members of society, and I felt amply repaid.' He told me to look up and work, and all would come out well. At this time I much regret that the proper data is not at hand from which I could write a proper sketch of this humble, godly man.

There is one other point to which I must refer before this little sketch is closed. That is his sterling business integrity. John Alexander's word was as good as gold in the business circles where he was known. No higher commendation of his character could be given than this. He went down to his grave honored and beloved by all who knew him. Through the amazing mercy of God I hope to meet him in heaven.

Greencastle, Ind.

E. T. CHAFFEE."

B. G. Shinn, of Hartford City, a Lawyer of high standing and a man well known for his intelligence, ability and many noble qualities, has always been a member of the same church and was also one of his best friends for many years. They were closely attached and in Hartford worked hand in hand together. To his memory he has written the following beautiful tribute:

"To write a tribute to the memory of a friend highly esteemed is at once a labor of love and a labor of difficulty. Of John Alexander much might be said, and the impulses springing from an

unbroken friendship of many years would lead to extended eulogy. But the limited space that I may reasonably claim not only suggests but imperatively exacts great brevity.

My acquaintance with him began somewhere near thirty years ago, when we occasionally met at quarterly meetings on the Montpelier circuit, which then included not less than six appointments or classes. One of the first of these occasions that I can distinctly remember was a meeting at Asbury Chapel, where he belonged, where myself, my father and a number of others from different parts of the circuit were entertained and lodged by him on Saturday night; quite a number having to be provided with beds spread upon the floor of the log house in which he then resided. The labor and expense of this wholesale entertainment of brethren and sisters attending the meeting from a distance was not considered at all burdensome by himself and his excellent wife; on the contrary, their hospitalities were extended cheerfully, generously and heartily. I remember of seeing him again in the summer of 1858 at a two-days basket meeting held in the grove just south of the village of Matamoras. During the dinner hour on Saturday in conversation with my father, he expressed his opinion very freely of the infamous attempt then recently made by the majority in Congress to force Kansas into the union as a slave state under the Lecomptor Constitution, over the well known and indignantly expressed opposition of an overwhelming majority of her citizens. I only met him occasionally, however, until he became a resident of Hartford City. From that time on, our acquaintance assumed the character of a close and intimate friendship. I felt that in him I had a friend in whom I could repose full confidence, that feeling grew and strengthened as the years passed by; alas! how speedily they passed, and how quickly they were gone. He seemed to feel quite an interest in me and in my welfare and success generally. He made me one of his confidential advisers, and often consulted me freely about his personal and business matters. He manifested great kindness of heart, and his sympathies were easily enlisted. When any of his neighbors were sick he seemed ready and anxious to tender them any service in his power.

I shall never forget his almost daily and always welcome visits to me during a term of severe illness in the autumn of 1875. It was his good fortune to possess the rare tact of making himself, on the occasion of such visits, both useful and agreeable. His visits and ministrations never became tiresome, but were always welcome and refreshing.

In this brief tribute I cannot even mention all his traits of char-

acter that deserve commendatory notice. A brief reference to two or three of them must suffice. One of them was faithfulness. This was manifested in his church relations and religious duties. He was no religious weathervane, borne about here and there, in this direction and that, by the ever changing currents of the breezes, nor was he a drifter, floating on the devious and uncertain currents of the tide. He was religious and served his Maker from principle. From my knowledge and observation of him I concluded that as a rule when he was absent from either the preaching service, the prayer meeting, the class meeting or the Sunday school, his absence was occasioned by sickness or some other circumstance equally as excusable. He was faithful to his family, and put forth all his energies, mental and physical, in promoting the interests and providing for the welfare of those he dearly loved. He was faithful to his friends, faithful in the fulfilment of all his engagements, and faithful in his convictions of right.

Another characteristic was earnestness. His inflexible rule of action was embodied in the divine precept: 'Whosoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with a might.' In whatever he engaged he expected to do his full part and share, and he did it with alacrity. With him life was a stern and eminently practical reality. He was no romantic, speculative visionary. To the realm of dreamy sentimentality he was a total stranger. In the battles of life he went directly to the front, into the thickest of the conflict, and never contemplated defeat or failure. He did nothing by halves. In his estimation whatever was worthy of being done at all was worthy of being well done. He was also a man of good mental caliber. Though deficient in scholarship, he was yet a close, active student, and his reasoning faculties were of a high order. Had he been engaged in a profession that required public speaking he would have achieved distinction in that line. I remember at least two occasions during the protracted meeting held a few weeks before his death, when he delivered exhortations that were characterized by a high order of ability. He spoke with a fluency of language and a power and pertinence of thought quite unusual for one not a professional public speaker.

I have thus briefly adverted to some of his characteristics that impressed me during the period of my acquaintance with him. In regarding him as one of God's noblemen I think I am not extravagant. I would not be understood as claiming for him entire exemption from human frailties. I believe I may be pardoned for referring to what seemed to me to be his principal failing, an error not of the heart but of the head, the result of an imperfec-

tion of the judgment, and not of a perverse inclination of the heart. He exacted too much of the physical man. He did not seem to realize that his splendid and vigorous constitution might give way and break down under the burdens imposed upon it. A measure of rest, of physical recreation, and relaxation from the strain of constant toil, even at the expense of leaving some necessary work undone, would doubtless have been wise in him, and might, possibly, have added years to his term of life. He certainly exemplified the maxim that it is better to wear out than to rust out.

But his work is done; and now, life's fitful fever being over, he rests well. How long that silent and profound rest shall endure God only knows. But at the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, with his accustomed alacrity he will respond to the omnipotent call and go joyfully into the presence of our Savior whom he trusted and in whom he believed. And then, in the region where the inhabitants never say they are sick, and where fatigue and weariness are unknown, his immortal powers will be devoted to the delightful and loving service of the King eternal."

The two following letters from his former pastor are full of good and beautiful truths which can but long be remembered:

"RICHMOND, IND., April 21, 1886.

DEAR SISTER ALEXANDER & FAMILY:

Your letter and money order came to hand. It did not matter about the money. We did not care for the expenses; we went up because of our long and happy acquaintance and strong attachment to your dear husband and his family that he loved so much. Among the many good and true men that I have found in my long ministry; I have found none in whom I could more heartily and fully confide than I could in your dear husband. How the pastor appreciates such true and faithful friends to whom he can go in times of trouble and care and deep anxiety, and who will not only counsel and advise with the pastor, but who will even help bear his troubles and responsibilities. O how he encouraged me when I had trouble, and how true his words were, and how completely they have been fulfilled. He was a man of excellent judgment. O how you all will miss his good judgments, his counsels and his advice. But remember he is at rest, at home. Jesus had need of him and has taken him to himself. He is free from all pain and care and anxiety. He loved his temporary home here most dearly, but he has a much better one above; a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; an inheritance in-

corruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.' Well, since he had to go, I am glad that such was his life that he will be missed everywhere; in the church, in the community, but most of all in his family. Many live so they are scarcely missed anywhere, even in their families; but not so with him. I hope the boys will so live that when they are called away that, like their father, they will be missed everywhere. I sent a notice of his death to the Advocate. I think it will come out next week most likely. We were very sorry indeed that William did not get there in time to see his father. It must have been a source of deep affliction to him. We were anxious that all the children should be there and see a faithful, true father for the last time until the morning of the resurrection. I earnestly desire that the children will so live that you may make an unbroken family in heaven.

Give our very kindest regards and best wishes to the boys and Rachel, and accept a large share yourself. Regards to all the friends. The Lord bless you and your family.

Yours truly, N. GILLAM.

P. S. Let Rachel read this letter to Bro. and Sister Markle and any others that you may desire.

Your friends, N. & J. A. GILLAM."

"RICHMOND, IND., Dec. 14, 1886.

W. G. ALEXANDER,  
La Grace, Dakota,

MY DEAR FRIEND:

Your very kind and welcome letter is at hand, and I hasten to reply. Your undertaking to collect and preserve in substantial form, all you can, in connection with the useful and happy life, and unblemished character of your dear father, for the present benefit and satisfaction of his family and friends, and for future reference by his posterity, is certainly very commendable, praiseworthy and important. No doubt much that was valuable and important in the lives and character of devoted Christian parents has been lost to their families and friends because these facts were not recorded when they were accessible, and in after years when they were desired and would have accomplished great good and afforded great satisfaction to the friends, they could not be obtained. I will be glad to render you all the assistance I can in your work; but not expecting to be called upon in this way, and having made no record of facts and events in his life during our acquaintance it will be impossible for me, from memory, to give a tithe of what is due from such a true Christian life and character. He and I were very intimate during my pastorate in Hartford City, and he conversed as freely with me, per-

haps, as he did with anyone outside of his own family. I always found him a noble, true, reliable man everywhere, and under all circumstances. He was a man of excellent judgment and great firmness and stability of character. The pastor could always depend on him for help, for counsel and advice in church work. How often have his pleasant words of encouragement, of counsel and advice, his smile, his hearty shake of my hand, and the deep interest he took in the church, encouraged and cheered my heart, amid labor and care and toil and discouragements. I can almost see him in my imagination coming to his own door to meet me with his pleasant smile and cheerful countenance, to welcome me into his happy home.

During my pastorate at Hartford we had a few fanatics in the church, who gave us considerable trouble for a time; but your father always stood by me and the church, never swerving for a moment. The interests of the church and the purity of its character always lay very near his heart. Nothing pleased him better than to see the church prosper and flourish. For this he labored, toiled and prayed. He was class leader all the time we were in that charge. O what clear, bright and encouraging testimony have I heard from him from Sabbath to Sabbath. He was not a despondent, gloomy Christian; he always looked on the bright side and carried sunshine and cheer into the church whenever he entered it. He was also teacher of the married ladies' bible class in the Sunday School. His class was in its place at the right of the pulpit the day of the funeral. O how impressive to see his class in its place, but their teacher who had served them so long and so faithfully lying before them in the coffin, in the cold embrace of death, never to speak to them or his family again in this world. How deeply they felt and how much they missed him. His attachment to his family was very strong, perhaps more so than most men. Especially was he anxious about his boys, as they were just beginning life for themselves; he was anxious that they should be noble, honorable, Christian men. He has spoken to me often about them, and I have heard him speak of it in class meeting a few times. His great anxiety was that his children should all become real bible Christians.

He and I corresponded after we left Hartford City until he was unable to write. My last letter reached him but a short time before his affliction. He tried a time or two to answer it, but could not. In all of his letters he spoke so kindly and affectionately of his family, and would often speak of all the children by name and tell where they were and what they were doing.

He was an honorable man in the community where he lived.

in the business world, in the church and in his family. Children, your father left you a treasure worth more than gold and silver, pearls and diamonds. He left you an unspotted Christian character that none can gainsay. O, what a treasure! what a theme for thought and reflection for his children through life; and what an example has he left, of industry, of integrity and strict honesty, and of a true unblemished Christian character. Shall not all of his children follow his noble Christian example? Among the last words of David to his son Solomon were these: 'And thou my son Solomon know thou the God of thy fathers and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him he will be found of thee: but if thou forsake him he will cast thee off forever.' How appropriate and impressive such language from a father to a son. Solomon was about to take the place of his father, and great responsibilities were soon to rest upon him. David felt that Solomon was not fully prepared even for the duties and responsibilities of this life without true piety: hence his language, 'Know thou the God of thy father.' Dear young men you are about to take the place of your father, at least in the business world, and I hope you will soon do so in the church. You, as well as Solomon have need to know the God of your father; that is the God your father served so many years, and found so much pleasure and delight in his service. You are not fully prepared even for the duties and responsibilities of this life without Divine grace and Divine help. And much less will you be prepared, without this grace, for a pure and holy heaven, where all is pure and holy, where nothing that defileth can enter, where doubtless your sainted father is; and it may be, if you all follow his example, that he may be permitted to introduce you one by one into that land where the inhabitants shall never say they are sick—that land that he used to talk so much about in the church.

It is certainly a source of great pleasure and delight, not only to his family but to the whole church, to know that we have such worthy examples of true piety in the church.

Yours very truly,  
N. GILLAM."

This next letter was written by his sister, Aunt Betty Leonard. She was with him very much in meetings and often talks of the last time and how impressive his words were at that time. She was also a member of his Sunday School class. The class consisted of a num-

ber of elderly women, and on the day of the funeral they were in the church in their places as usual. A number of them have contributed beautifully to his memory. They are all given below:

"HARTFORD CITY, Nov. 18, 1889.

DEAR NEPHEW:

I embrace the very first opportunity since receiving your very welcome letter, of answering it. Mattie and I went out to the reunion when they all met to fix up the graves. It was a lovely day and a large number gathered there and made the little old country graveyard look lovely indeed. There lay my father, mother and brother, all silent and still forever, and only a few feet from them lay Uncle Ed. I thought of the years past, when the two brothers came to the wild west, then a wilderness, with their families to take their chances for an education; your father only a boy, but full of ambition and hope ever since I can remember, which never left him even in declining years, as you know; hoping always for a glorious future for his family in this life and in eternity; holding on with an iron grip not to be shook off with the cares and disappointments of life. His whole life's aim was for his children. He seemed to set much store by you. Your faults were very small in his sight, and your virtues very great. He never had a child do wrong but what he found an excuse for them in some way or other. He might have been at fault in teaching his family in many things, but he was mostly correct.

He came to Hartford City several years ago, striving to be somebody, and notwithstanding his limited education and somewhat old style ways, he had no trouble in going in the very best company, and held himself there until death took him out of their midst. Yet he is often spoken of by many. Only a few Sundays ago someone called for his favorite hymn to be sung in the class room. After it was sung many got up and spoke of him until the whole house was melted down in tears. Follow his teaching and you will not go far astray.

Your aunt,  
C. E. LEONARD."

"Brother Alexander served faithfully as our Sabbath school teacher from the time he took the class until the illness overtook him which caused his death. As a teacher he was loved by each member of his class. He was kind, patient and ready to answer if possible any question we were to ask him. As a man he was loved by each citizen, for he was noble, kind, honest and sociable. As a Christian he lived true to his profession, always acting

promptly. He was a regular attendant at church, and a very prominent member. He was a good class leader.

We cannot say one word against Bro. Alexander. He was always kind and true to us. Since death has severed him from us we miss him in our Sabbath school, class, the church, the class room and in the prayer meeting; but we shall meet him, with the loved ones gone, on the other and better shore.

MRS. J. CANTWELL."

"I cheerfully add a few lines to the book of memory of our esteemed brother, John Alexander, who was our teacher in Sabbath school so long. He was always kind and patient as a teacher, always willing to teach and be taught. He often talked on the subject of religion, and of the trials of this life, and of the home of the blest. From his teachings and conversation and daily life we believe he had a very rich religious experience. We have often heard him exhort sinners to come to Christ and be saved, and we expect to meet him where there is no sickness, no sorrow or trial, and where we will praise our Redeemer forever and ever.

ANN L. LYONS."

"Of my brother in Christ I am so sorry to say farewell forever in this world; but soon we will meet again. I can but say: Thy will be done, O Lord. As a Sunday school teacher his services were greatly valued. In business Bro. Alexander met with that gradual success which naturally rewards the Christian integrity. His beautiful Christian life, what a comfort for those that survive him! His days are past, his purposes are broken off, because man goeth to his long home; the silver cord be broken, or the golden bowl be broken, and dust has returned to earth as it was and the spirit is with God who gave it.

My prayer to God is that we all may be ready when the Son of Man cometh. There is a city that the inhabitants shall never say: I am sick.

MRS. A. B. STOUT."

"We imagine the writer must have had just such a person as our much respected Sunday school teacher, Mr. John Alexander, in mind when he wrote the following verses:

'Mark the righteous man and see  
    Peace and joy his steps attend;  
All his path is purity,  
    Happy is his end.  
  
Come and see his dying bed,  
    Peacefully his moments roll;

Angels hover 'round his head,  
Heaven receives his soul.

Come and view his mortal grave;  
Silence and repose are there;  
Never more shall sorrow's wave  
Disturb the slumberer.'

MRS. ELLA CLAPPER."

"I was a member of your father's Sabbath school class for six years. He was always faithful and kind, and I think his daily walk was in the fear and love of God. He is gone and greatly missed in the community, and by his friends and relatives; missed in the church in which he has been so long connected; missed in the Sabbath school, and especially missed in his family. 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their troubles; and their works do follow them.'—Rev. 14:13.

MRS. M. J. CRAFT."

"Brother Alexander was my Sabbath school teacher for a number of years. I feel that I was greatly benefited spiritually, by his teachings. He was always pleasant and kind, and took great pains to instruct us and answer all of our questions. I believe he was a good Christian man. He always seemed to be happy and friendly whenever we would meet him. He always stood up for the right, and was highly esteemed by all of his class, and all others.

MRS. J. P. WINTERS."

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.'—Psalms 19:14.

'But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.'—Psalms 13:5.

Brother Alexander, when in the buoyancy of life, made preparation for death, and the above quotations very appropriately and truthfully portray the language of his heart. He endeared himself to his class by his fervent religious convictions.

MRS. J. M. RUCKMAN."

"When on one day of life the morn was dawning,  
And the minds from unseen spaces blown;  
Hark! the distant voices calling,  
Angels whispering 'Our brother's come.'

MRS. MARGARET LIEBER."

"We meet and part while sailing down life's river, and slowly  
the years glide by. MRS. HUTCHINSON."

"Servant of God, well done;  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the vict'ry won,  
Enter thy Master's joy.  
Soldier of Christ, well done;  
Praise be thy new employ;  
And, while eternal ages run,  
Rest in thy Savior's joy."

For us, still on earth, the foregoing thoughts, memories and opinions have been penned. With these and his own recorded words before the reader, much may be known and remembered of my father, John Alexander, his staunch, unwavering friendship, his high value of friends, his warm heart, his high aspirations, his devoted love for his family, his contempt for everything mean, low, intriguing or dishonest. He inherited nothing but an honorable parentage and a splendid physique. It is difficult for those who have not had the special advantages of the schools in early life to gain a reputation for mental culture and intellectual attainments, but it is sufficient to say that whatever position he occupied, he was always in the front of those of his rank. His intellectuality consisted essentially in his strong reason, his sound judgment, his vigorous and warm imagination and his comprehensive understanding. He resembled not so much the beautiful river whose stream winds through rich and varied scenery, but that which cuts a deep and rapid channel through rugged rocks. His was a changeless sincerity, never in masquerade, never in disguise. He was as you saw him. His character and appearance, were always in close proximity. He was an open and an honorable foe. Some men have brave souls in cowardly bodies; he had a triple courage which imparted to him immense strength. His physical bravery knew no fear, and his moral heroism was sublime. He thought for himself and spoke what he thought. He was loyal to his own

conscience. Friendship could not deter him: enemies could not make him afraid. He was never idle, never behind time, and "Never left a stone unturned." Loyalty to duty was his standard of manhood. He had pride of character and power of passion; he was sensitive and high spirited; and there were times when his ardent temperament mastered his self control. The passions of love, joy, hope, desire, grief, hatred and anger were strong in him. His grief was intense, and his hatred inveterate. This was the key to the warmth of his friendship and the bitterness of his enmity.

It is not strange that a father, being a self made man and possessing such strong and positive characteristics, clearly defined aims and purposes in life, and with the deepest interest at heart in the welfare of his children, should form in them fixed and lasting impressions of the unmistakable characteristics of himself. We do not, we cannot forget him. To me his daily life with all his characteristics and habits are as clearly and vividly before me as when I was with him. Personally he was my counsel and my adviser up to his last sickness. In his death we lost a strong support and a safe counselor. How little we realized his value to us, his concern and his interest in our welfare, until after he was gone! How much we now treasure up his oft repeated words of advice, his lessons of economy, and his personal sacrifices for his children!

His methods and habits of industry in attending his work and caring for what he had are still seen in his own hand marks about the homestead. He was an ardent believer in "early to bed and early to rise," and he practiced it. He toiled daily, not, as he said, for himself, but that he might leave something. About that home may be seen on every side evidences of his watchful care. But the hand that ever led us carefully, so long; the familiar voice so well remembered; that strong arm, our support for many years, all are gone

from us forever. But his precepts are left us to serve as a lamp by which our feet are guided. Through the darkness and gloom that rests over his tomb a light is constantly shining. All his life he worked clearing out a path for us to walk in through life. While I live I want habitually to turn to his recorded words and learn from his code of morals and his tireless devotion to which I was so long an eye witness. Ever since I can remember his great concern was to be ready for death. He talked so encouragingly about it. When I stood beside his grave I thought of the many times he had talked to me about that star of hope that was the light to his pathway as he toiled and journeyed on, many times weary and burdened with care. Before us are these precepts, these evidences of his great anxiety for our temporal and eternal welfare. We travel but a little while longer and we too come to the bridge.

It is a venerable saying of scripture that "the day of a man's death is better than the day of his birth." For the last few months, and up to the very hour when in stillness of the holy Sabbath his soul left our presence, never was he more earnest, never were his eloquence and powers more effectual and convincing; and in the last hours, though incapable of utterance, his countenance clearly portrayed contentment and peace.

"A life, though now it seems LONG, is SOON RUN;  
Mingled with THORNS and FLOWERS, ENDS as it BEGUN."

In person John Alexander was physically a strong man. He was erect, square shouldered, and just six feet tall in his stocking feet. His weight was from 180 to 190 lbs. His arm was large, strong and brawny, and his grip so firm that in shaking hands he always made himself readily known by his hearty squeeze. His walk was fast and erect, and on meeting a friend he was always ready first with a joke. His hair was black, or of a dark brown, and was straight; his eyes blue, mixed with gray, and his beard sandy. He wore his

beard two or three inches long, and always shaved his upper lip on Saturday evening. He had very few if any gray hairs yet at his death. His teeth were still all sound and in place, and his eyesight was good for his age, but his memory had grown defective. His voice was always clear, distinct and full of emphasis.

The photos of Father and Mother, in the middle of the book, represent them correctly at the time they were taken—his at the age of 58 or 59, hers at 59 or 60.

Mother still has her home at Hartford City, and lives there a part of the time. During the summer of '88 she took a trip to Kansas and on to Durango, Colo. and spent some months in the Rocky mountains, visiting her brother and some of her children. Her health was greatly improved by this trip. In '90 she took another similar trip, stopping at Denver. She has for many years been in poor health. Her ambition to work and to care for her whole family as they grew up has been a heavy tax upon her physical system; and yet she is not content to be idle. All along their journey through life she contributed her full share toward the rearing and the support of a large family. Her hands were never idle, for she found pleasure in toiling early and late. Not only were the cares, responsibilities and burden-bearing of sowing the seed in the household borne by her, but in the early days she often went into the field, and under the heat of the day helped there in sowing and in reaping. The incidents of her life on the farm are many, which memory will never deface. They are such as were common to many in that day; mingled with joy, pride and pleasure were also anxiety and grief.

She had the good fortune to raise all of her children to manhood and womanhood. With the meager advantages of a country life her family was trained principally at home, and was seldom out of her sight except when in school. Thus the early training in this home

was of a pure and wholesome character. Her great concern and over anxiety for the well being of her family has always been manifest and is still the chief subject among the temporal things that engage her mind and time. She is, however, a mother to all whom she meets, ever ready to sacrifice any of her own comforts and pleasures to assist any needy one. Since girlhood her life has been that of a continued, consistant, faithful Christian, faithful in her daily prayers, faithful in her contributions and faithful to any duty coming upon her. Of late years her great study and delight is in her bible and in her worship with Christian people. She lives in that constant abiding faith, in that peaceful obedience to God's will that assures the faithful contentment in this life, peace in the hour of death and a rich inheritance in the life eternal. Recently she has made herself a temporary home at Lawrence, Kansas, near her relatives. Most of the time of her remaining years will be passed with the families of her children.

"A mother is a mother still; the holiest thing alive."

To them were born seven children, all in the little log cabin except the youngest, and all of whom were born on the old homestead in Wells county, Ind.

RACHEL M. was born Sept. 26, 1850. Her early education was received in the district school at home, and at the age of 18 she commenced teaching, which vocation she followed for a number of years, teaching from one to two schools each year. At intervals while not teaching, she at various times attended school and college at Hartford City, Ft. Wayne and Valparaiso; besides completing several courses of literary reading. While in college at Valparaiso she studied the art of hand painting and crayon work which she has since taught in various places. She has also made a special study of the kindergarten work and has written extended articles on that subject. In this and in her art work she is still engaged. In the summer of 1888 she went to

southwestern Colo. in hope of improving her health. She taught in Delta, Silverton and Durango; at the last place named and near there she remained until Nov. 1891, when she returned to Ind. She has always been a Methodist and an active worker in the church; especially with the children. She has also done valuable work in the cause of temperance. In the spring of 1892 she again went to Colo. stopping at Cripple Creek, where she organized and taught classes in painting and executed some of her most valuable sketches from nature. Nov. 17, 1892, she married Geo. E. Fox, at Denver, Colo. Mr. Fox was born in Nova Scotia, Aug. 16, 1851, and is of Scotch nationality. He was a widower with two boys; viz: Leroy and William; ages 5 and 7 years. He is a Baptist; has always been a republican and prohibitionist, and is by occupation a mechanic. He is an upright man, pure in habits and character. They reside in their comfortable little home at Loveland, Colo.

WILLIAM G. was born Oct. 30, 1852. His early schooling was also received in the country school house. Of this there was a term of 3 or 4 months each year. The balance of the time up to about his majority was spent at home on the farm, except a few months' attendance in select school at Hartford City, Montpelier and Ridgeville, from the age of 16 to 20. He began teaching in Ind. at 20, then taught one year in Kansas and returned to Ind., leased the old homestead, and for two years farmed in the summer and taught in the winter; at 24 quit the farm and started in for a college education. He first attended Valparaiso normal and sold books during vacation. After teaching two terms he took an academic and commercial course at Ft. Wayne college, continuing about two years and teaching a part of this time, graduating in the commercial department in '80. He then taught several more terms, and at intervals read law in the office of Hon. R. S. Taylor, Ft. Wayne. In March, 1883, he graduated from the law department

at Ann Arbor, and at once entered upon the practice of law in the then territory of Dakota. In 1884 was elected district attorney of Campbell county, and resided at LaGrace, in that county, until June, '87, when after returning from a trip east he sold out in Dakota and removed to Hutchinson, Kan., and was engaged in the practice of law there until the fall of 1890, when he went to Denver, Colo., where he has established a law practice and intends to make his home. On New Years eve of '92, at Maysville, Ind., he married Mary Peters. She is a native of that place, and is of Quaker origin. She was educated in her native town, is a school teacher, and has acquired some attainments in music. In the spring of '92 they moved temporarily to Cripple Creek, Colo., a mining camp of some 10,000 population. Since then he has been a member of the board of trustees of the 1st Cong. church, S. S. Supt., is elected to the office of justice of the peace and Pres. of the school board.

ROBERT O.V. was born Oct. 7, '54; was also schooled at home and worked on the farm. At the age of about 18, when he could be spared at home, he worked for wages in the neighborhood. He was very strong, had had great endurance and was seldom sick. He never shrank from any kind of hard work; was ambitious and afraid of nothing. He had real grit and would quickly resent an insult. He was popular among the young people, and had many friends among the young men. In Nov. '74 he was taken with a severe attack of typhoid fever, and lived just 21 days. The attack was pronounced by the physicians one which but few men would have survived so long. He was not conscious after the 11th day. Dec. 12th he died. His funeral was conducted by the order known as the Grange, of which he was a member; was buried at Asbury Chapel cemetery.

JOHN B., born Dec. 1, '56; was educated and worked at home until the age of 18, when the family moved to Hartford City. He attended school there, and after-

wards the commercial school at Valparaiso, after which he engaged in the grain business at Hartford City until poor health compelled him to give it up. Later he engaged in the nursery and fruit business and also in bee culture at home, which he still follows. Much of the time since the age of 21 he has been an invalid from liver trouble, but of late has almost regained his health. He is a close student and well informed generally; is a republican but takes no active part in politics. He is now editor and proprietor of the "American Horticulturist," and in connection with it buys and sells fruit trees, plants and shrubbery. His business is conducted at Lawrence, Kan., and at Hartford City, Ind. At the latter place he still makes his home.

ASAHEL C., born Feb. 16, 1859; attended school at home and worked on the farm until about 18, when he began working for himself. He first learned the blacksmith trade at Dundee, Ind., following it in Montpelier and New Cumberland, and about a year in Kansas, when he returned to Ind. April 17, '83, he married Sarah A. Barrett, of New Cumberland. They settled there and engaged in the grocery business, remaining until 1890, when he was appointed deputy sheriff of Grant Co., and in the spring of '91 they moved to Marion, the Co. seat, where they reside. He is enthusiastic in whatever he undertakes, is not afraid of hard work and never shirks duty; is a republican and takes considerable interest in political campaigns. His wife is a member and active worker in the Methodist church. They have had three children: Fannie B., born March 16, '84; Lota M., born Sept. 15, '85, died Oct. 12, '86; Benjamin H., born April 22, '88, died June 2, '91, of brain fever. Both children are buried at New Cumberland.

JAMES M., born Oct. 23, '60. He left the farm and moved with the family to Hartford City at about the age of 14; attended school there some two years, then took a commercial course at Valparaiso. After this

was clerk in a warehouse and worked some on a farm. At the age of about 20 he was employed in the dry goods establishment of Kershbaum & Weiler, of that city, where he continued about ten years. While there he became educated practically in the rules and principles that govern successful business men, and gained the reputation of a trustworthy and successful salesman. In 1889 he engaged in the dry goods business for himself, with C. W. Sparr, at Lawrence, Kan., where they carry on a large business. He is an industrious, attentive business man, a republican, and a member of the K. P. lodge. In this order he has attained to a respectable rank, having been honored to a membership in the state lodge. His home is at Lawrence.

L. O. MORTON was born Dec. 16, '67; was 7 years of age when the family moved to Hartford, and therefore received his education in the schools of that place. He was an apt student, and at the age of 15 was near completing the course, when his eagerness to learn the newspaper business, and his adaptability to it, led him away from school. This ended his school days, but his education has continued and is largely self made. Quick perception, a retentive memory and studious habits have placed him among the well informed and educated of the day. He began his editorial work on the Muncie "News," afterward contributed to and worked on other papers. In '89 he established the "Dakota Chief," at Gann Valley, S. D., which he published and edited for three years. He is now associate editor and owner in the Chamberlain "Register," at Chamberlain, S. D. He is a staunch republican, and has always kept well informed and manifested deep interest in the politics of state and nation. In 1890, during the Indian troubles, he was appointed aid-de-camp by the governor of South Dakota. May 9, 1888, he married Georgia Taylor, of Muncie, Ind. They have one child, Florence, born April 14, '89. They now have their home at Chamberlain, S. D.











FAMILY BIOGRAPHIES









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